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PLANET
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FIGHT A MOON-RULED HORDE IN
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EIRD ADVENTURES ON OTHER WORLDS—THE UNIVERSE OF THE FUTURE
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A FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINE

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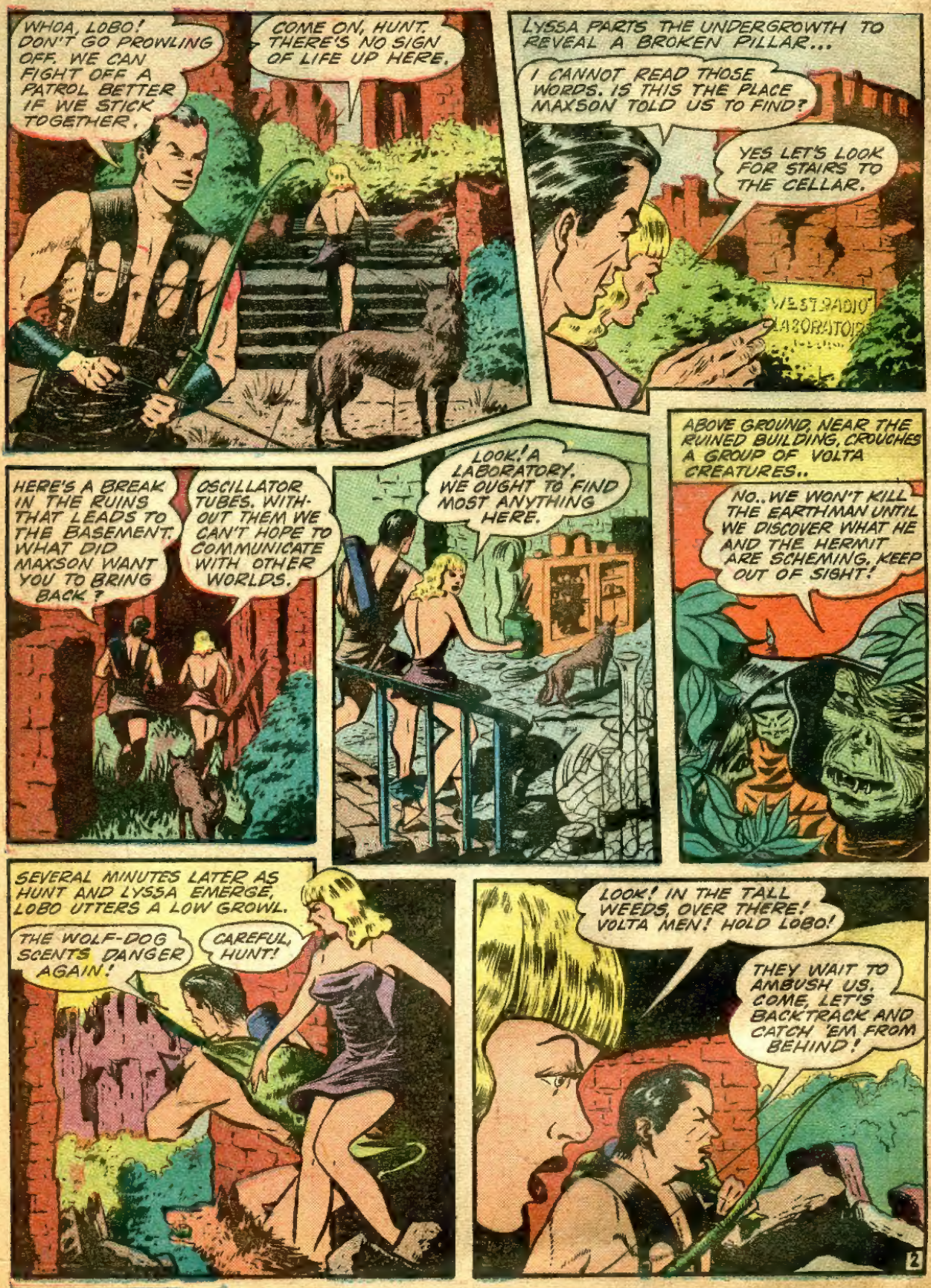
THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS (No. 27, NOV.) WILL BE ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND SEPT. 10th.

THE Lost WORLD

STRANGE, CORPSE-LIKE CREATURES FROM VOLTA, RULING PLANET OF THE UNIVERSE, HAVE DEVASTATED EARTH. BUT AT LEAST THREE HUMANS STILL LIVE TO DEFY THE EDICT OF DEATH: **HUNT BOWMAN**, A PRIMITIVE ARCHER, **LYSSA**, QUEEN OF A DISTANT WORLD... AND **MAXSON**.. THE HERMIT OF BROOKLYN BRIDGE...

By THORNECLIFFE HERRICK

HUNT AND LYSSA ROAM AMID THE RUINS OF NEW YORK IN SEARCH OF RADIO APPARATUS.


WHOA, LOBO! DON'T GO PROWLING OFF. WE CAN FIGHT OFF A PATROL BETTER IF WE STICK TOGETHER.
COME ON, HUNT. THERE'S NO SIGN OF LIFE UP HERE.
LYSSA PARTS THE UNDERGROWTH TO REVEAL A BROKEN PILLAR...
I CANNOT READ THOSE WORDS. IS THIS THE PLACE MAXSON TOLD US TO FIND?
YES LET'S LOOK FOR STAIRS TO THE CELLAR.
WEST RADIO LABORATOR
HERE'S A BREAK IN THE RUINS THAT LEADS TO THE BASEMENT. WHAT DID MAXSON WANT YOU TO BRING BACK?
OSCILLATOR TUBES. WITHOUT THEM WE CAN'T HOPE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER WORLDS.
LOOK! A LABORATORY. WE OUGHT TO FIND MOST ANYTHING HERE.
ABOVE GROUND, NEAR THE RUINED BUILDING, CROUCHES A GROUP OF VOLTA CREATURES..
NO..WE WON'T KILL THE EARTHMAN UNTIL WE DISCOVER WHAT HE AND THE HERMIT ARE SCHEMING. KEEP OUT OF SIGHT!
SEVERAL MINUTES LATER AS HUNT AND LYSSA EMERGE, LOBO UTTERS A LOW GROWL.
THE WOLF-DOG SCENTS DANGER AGAIN!
CAREFUL, HUNT!
LOOK! IN THE TALL WEEDS, OVER THERE! VOLTA MEN! HOLD LOBO!
THEY WAIT TO AMBUSH US. COME, LET'S BACKTRACK AND CATCH 'EM FROM BEHIND!
12

SLIPPING THROUGH THE CELLAR THEY COME OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE...
THIS ROCK WILL MAKE THEM JUMP!
I'M READY FOR THE FIRST ONE!
BUT THE WARY VOLTA MEN HAVE CIRCLED AROUND... AND ONE LOSES HIS TEMPER.
DEATH TO THE EARTHMAN!
NO! NO!
HUNT WHIRLS AS THE MISSILE GRAZES HIS HEAD.
GET 'EM, LOBO!
QUICK, GIVE ME YOUR BOW, HUNT!
KEEP 'EM BUSY LOBO, HERE I COME!
THE SWIFT ARROW THUDS INTO LEATHERY FLESH TO PIERCE A VOLTA MAN'S HEART.
WITH PRIMITIVE HUMAN FURY, HUNT CHARGES INTO THEIR MIDST.
I DROPPED ONE, HUNT, BUT THE OTHERS ARE ESCAPING. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND..
NEITHER CAN I... THEIR BEHAVIOR IS VERY STRANGE. THERE'S SOMETHING QUEER GOING ON.
13

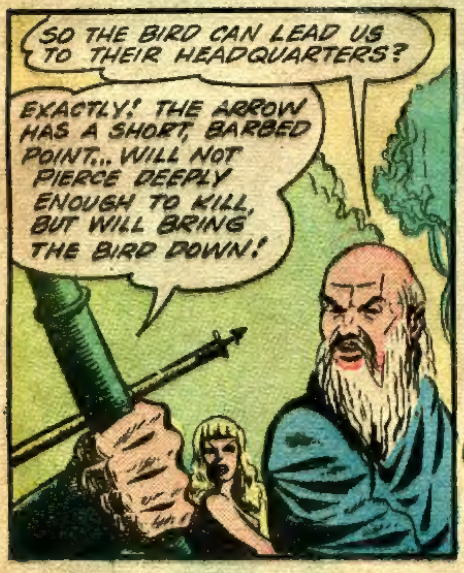
A SHORT WHILE LATER THEY TRUDGE ACROSS THE FORGOTTEN CITY TOWARD THE RUINS OF BROOKLYN BRIDGE..
THEY SEEMED TO DISAPPEAR. BUT PERHAPS THEY'RE FOLLOWING US, LYSSA.
MAYBE. LET'S TAKE A ROUNDABOUT ROUTE TO MAXSONS LAB AFTER WE CROSS THE RIVER.
MAXSON WILL BE WORRIED ABOUT US, BUT WE GOT WHAT WE WENT AFTER.
HERE WE ARE.. EASY NOW!
HUNT'S KNOCK AT THE CELLAR DOOR BRINGS THE HERMIT SCIENTIST..
MAXSON! YOU.. YOU'RE PALE AS A GHOST!
COME INSIDE.. QUICK!
A VOLTA PATROL WAS SEARCHING THE MARSH. IF THEY FIND THIS HIDEOUT..
I CAN HOLD THEM OFF UNTIL YOU'VE ASSEMBLED THE TRANSMITTER.
ALL RIGHT.. YOU AND LYSSA STAND BY FOR AN ATTACK. I'LL INSTALL THE RADIOS IN OUR SHIPS..
HERE'S THE STUFF WE FOUND. I HOPE IT ISN'T TOO OLD.
IT'S GOOD! I CAN USE IT ALL!
A CENTURY AGO BEFORE THE WORLD WAS DEVASTATED, AMERICANS WERE USING NEW, INDESTRUCTIBLE ALLOYS FOR SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS. THIS MATERIAL NEVER WEARS OUT. WATCH.. I'LL GIVE A TEST DEMONSTRATION..
OUTSIDE, THE PATROL CHIEF AND HIS GHOULISH HENCHMEN CRAWL LIKE SPIDERS OVER THE WALL OF THE DILAPIDATED BUILDING..
HEAR VOICES. THIS PLACE MUST BE WHERE OLD MAN LIVES!

WHAT ARE THEY SCHEMING, BROAK?
THEY HAVE SAMPLES OF AN ANCIENT ALLOY THAT WOULD BE PRIZED AMONG OUR METAL SMITHS.
KILL THEM AND WE'LL TAKE IT!
NOT YET! BOWMAN'S STRANGE EARTH BEAST, THE DOG, WARNS OF OUR PRESENCE. WE'LL RETURN WITH A SQUAD AND SURROUND THIS PLACE!
HUNT! WAIT FOR ME! YOU CAN'T TACKLE THEM ALONE!
LOBO'S WARNING GROWL SPURS HUNT..
VOLTAS PROWLING OUTSIDE. I'LL BE BACK WHEN I'VE KILLED THEM!
NO, LYSSA. WE MUSTN'T VENTURE OUT WITHOUT WEAPONS. I'LL GET THE ELECTRON GUNS.
THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE EAST RIVER.. AFTER 'EM, LOBO!
THAT WILL STOP THE EARTH BEAST!
AFRAID LOBO GOT IT THAT TIME. THEY'RE FASTER THAN I THOUGHT! IF THEY BEAT ME TO THE NAVY YARD AND SIGNAL FOR REINFORCEMENTS THERE'LL BE MORE TROUBLE THAN WE CAN HANDLE!

THEY'RE BEYOND ACCURATE RANGE. I CAN'T HIT THEM. WE'LL HAVE TO GO ON, HUNT!
MAXSON'S COMING. WE'D BETTER ASK HIS ADVICE
BY ALL MEANS, HUNT. OUR LIVES AREN'T WORTH THREE ATOMS IF THEY CONTACT A SQUAD. ADVANCE!
THEIR ENEMIES SCRAMBLE FRANTICALLY TOWARD A REFUGE ALONG THE DESOLATE WATERFRONT...
WITH THEIR HEAD-START, THE VOLTAS REACH THE STARK RUINS OF BROOKLYN NAVY-YARD WHERE 900,000 TONS OF AMERICAN 21ST CENTURY WAR FLEET WAS DESTROYED GENERATIONS BEFORE BY THE VOLTA'S PEOPLES' WAR AGAINST EARTH..
YOUR SHOT DIDN'T KILL THE DOG-BEAST, BROAK. HE WILL LEAD THE EARTHMEN HERE!
THE GOPA WILL BRING OUR WARRIORS BEFORE THE HUMANS CAN CORNER US.
THE TIDE IS LOW SO THE WATER HERE WON'T BE OVER OUR NECKS.
I'LL FASTEN THIS TO THE GOPA'S LEG. IT WILL FLY TO ITS NEST AT PATROL HEADQUARTERS.
EMERGING UPON THE BRIDGE BROAK SCRAWLS A MESSAGE.

THERE'S LOBO! HE WAS ONLY PLAYING DEAD WHEN THEY SHOT AT HIM.
SOMETHING JUST MOVED ON THE SHIP.. LET'S CREEP CLOSER!

KEEPING OUT OF SIGHT, THEY EMERGE AT A SPOT DIAGONALLY ACROSS FROM THE SHIP'S BRIDGE.
THEY'VE RELEASED A GOPA. THAT BIRD CARRIES MESSAGES!
DON'T SHOOT IT, LYSSA I'VE A TRICK ARROW THAT WILL BRING IT DOWN ALIVE.. FOR A PURPOSE!


SO THE BIRD CAN LEAD US TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS?
EXACTLY! THE ARROW HAS A SHORT, BARBED POINT.. WILL NOT PIERCE DEEPLY ENOUGH TO KILL, BUT WILL BRING THE BIRD DOWN!

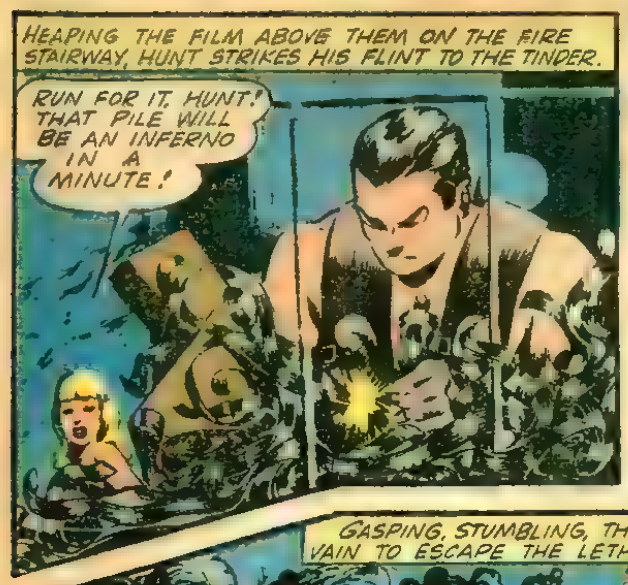
I'LL SWIM OUT AND CATCH THE BIRD. TAKE A BOAT AND MEET ME ON MANHATTAN ISLAND!

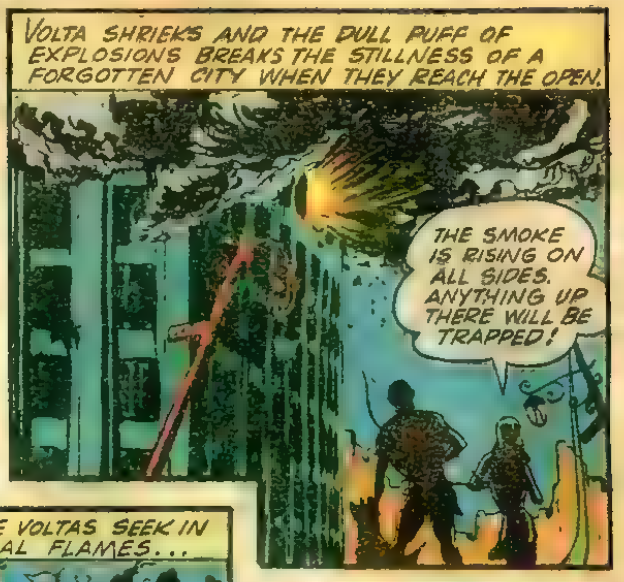
LONG POWERFUL STROKES BRING HUNT WITHIN REACH OF THE MESSAGE CARRIER.
BACK, LOBO! I'M TAKING THE BIRD ALIVE!

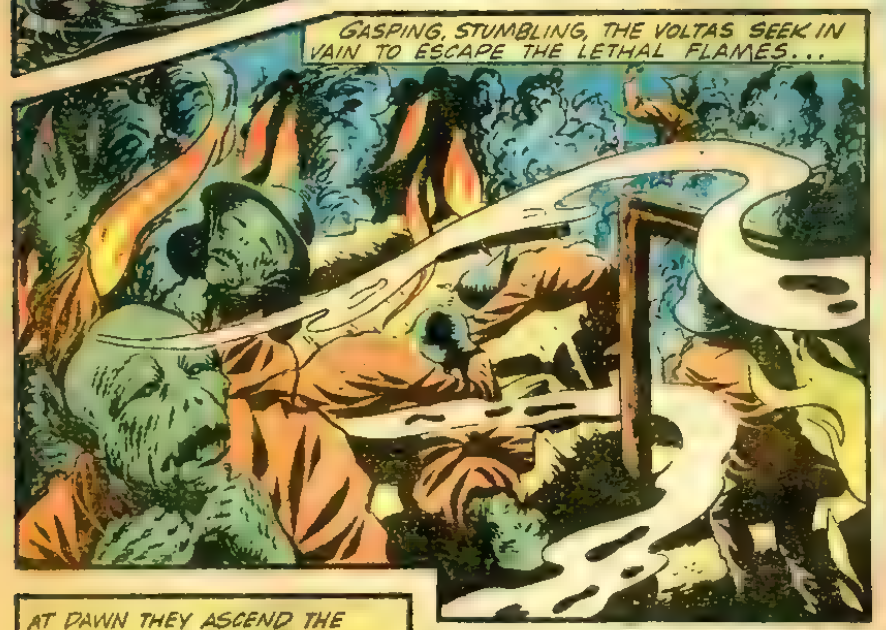
BUT WHILE HUNT SWIMS FOR THE OPPOSITE SHORE, HIS FRIENDS FAIL TO EVADE THEIR ENEMIES..
LOOK OUT FOR THAT TREE! THEY'VE HIT IT WITH A RAY! IT'S FALLING!

THE OLD ONE IS DEAD. WE WILL TAKE THIS FEMALE TO THE PATROL STATION FOR DISPOSAL.
THAT IS WISE, BROAK, THE EARTHMAN DARES NOT ATTACK US WHILE THIS ONE IS OUR CAPTIVE.
YOU DEVILS WILL HAVE TO CARRY ME, I'VE BROKEN A LEG.
LATER..
STUPID FOOLS..KNOW NOTHING OF HUMAN INJURIES. I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH.. HERE GOES!
HE'LL FALL LIKE A ROCK, I'LL HAVE TO GET AWAY NOW!
DISPLACING MORE THAN ITS WEIGHT IN WATER, THE INHUMAN BODY SINKS RAPIDLY...
SHE LIED ABOUT THE BROKEN LEG! I'LL BLOW OFF HER HEAD THE INSTANT IT SHOWS ABOVE WATER!

HUNT! HUNT!
A RUSTLE OF LEAVES, THE TWANG OF A BOWSTRING ANSWERS HER FRENZIED CRY.
GOT ONE! NOW QUICK FOR THE OTHER!
THEY CAUGHT US. MAXSON'S DEAD. THANK HEAVEN YOU WAITED FOR ME!
I HAVE THE GOPA BIRD TO LEAD US TO THE PATROL STATION WHERE WE CAN AVENGE THE HERMIT'S DEATH!
A WEIRD SQUEAL KNIFES THE AIR AS BROAK BECOMES THE FINAL VICTIM...
BY SUNDOWN THEY NEAR THE STUMP OF AN ANCIENT SKYSCRAPER.
THE BIRD HOBBLED INTO THAT HIGH RUIN.. THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!
YES.. BUT WE MUST WAIT TILL DARK BEFORE GOING CLOSER!
BEFORE THE MOON RISES THE HUMANS GAIN ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING.
THERE MUST BE DOZENS OF THE VOLTAS ON THE TOP FLOORS. HOW CAN WE ATTACK?
LOOK FOR SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE A GOOD FIRE!
AN OFFICE VACANT NEARLY A THOUSAND YEARS REWARDS THEIR SEARCH!
THIS WILL DO IT! EMPTY THESE CANS OF MOVIE FILM
MOVIE FILM? WHAT'S THAT?
BEFORE THE ERA OF TELEVISION, THESE PICTURES WERE FLASHED ON A SCREEN. THE FILM BURNS VIOLENTLY, GIVING OFF DEADLY CARBON MONOXIDE GAS.
9


HEAPING THE FILM ABOVE THEM ON THE FIRE STAIRWAY, HUNT STRIKES HIS FLINT TO THE TINDER.
RUN FOR IT, HUNT! THAT PILE WILL BE AN INFERNO IN A MINUTE!


VOLTA SHRIEKS AND THE DULL PUFF OF EXPLOSIONS BREAKS THE STILLNESS OF A FORGOTTEN CITY WHEN THEY REACH THE OPEN.
THE SMOKE IS RISING ON ALL SIDES. ANYTHING UP THERE WILL BE TRAPPED!



WITH LOBO STANDING GUARD THE HUMANS TAKE SHELTER.
CATCH A FEW WINKS, HUNT. AT SUNRISE WE'LL GO AND SEE HOW THE POISON SMOKE WORKED!

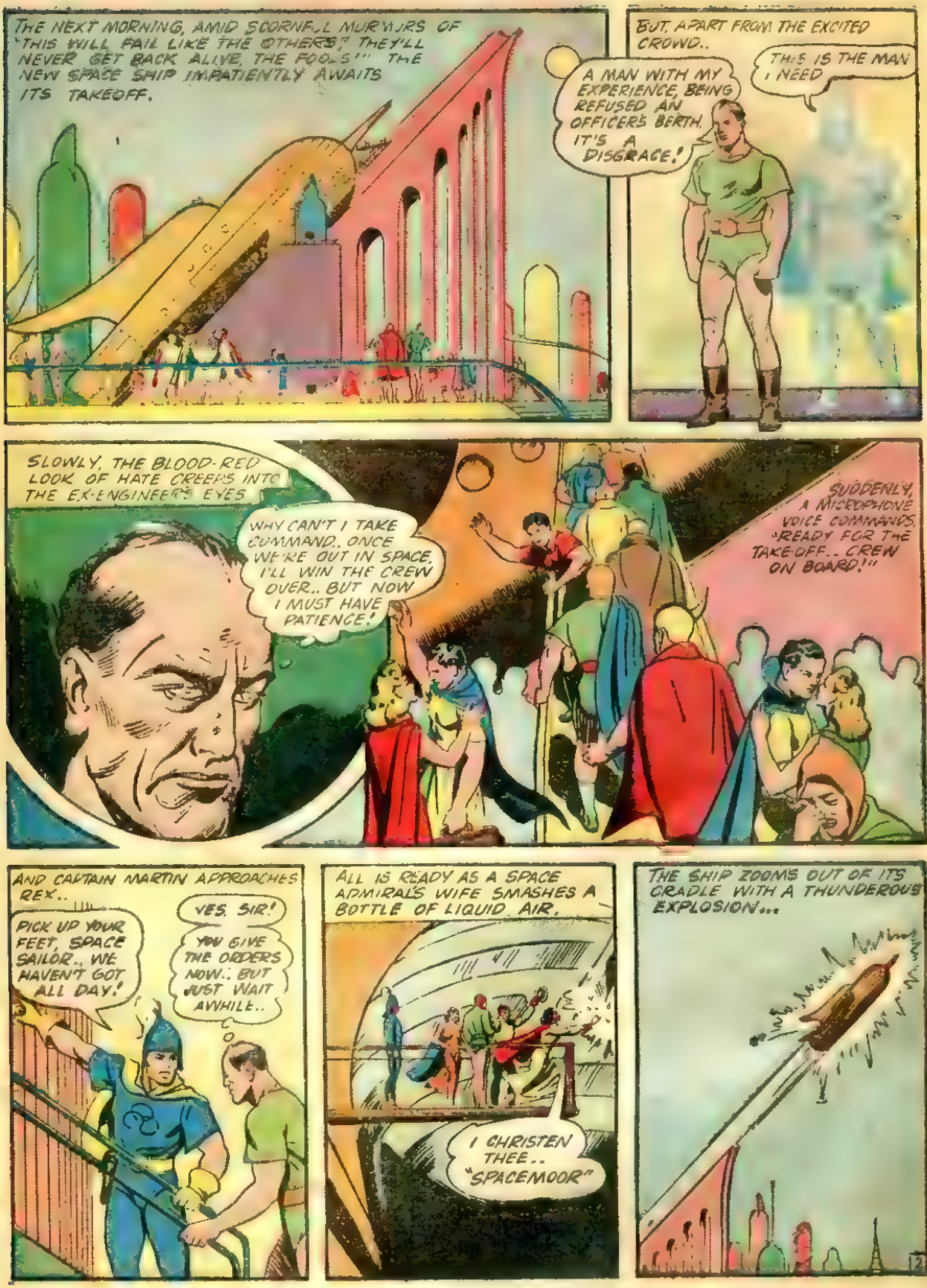
AT DAWN THEY ASCEND THE ANCIENT SKYSCRAPER..
THAT MOVIE FILM DID A DEADLY JOB. THERE'S NOT A BREATH OF LIFE IN THIS WHOLE PATROL!
THIS TERRITORY OF THE LOST WORLD IS AT LAST FREE FROM THE CONQUERING PLANET'S GRIP!

A SHORT WHILE LATER..
WE'RE ALONE ON THE EARTH NOW. NEW YORK WAS THE VOLTAS' LAST OUTPOST. SHALL WE SWIM ACROSS TO BROOKLYN?
NO. LET US GO TO MY HOMELAND, THE HUNTING'S GOOD THERE!

ACROSS THE HUDSON THEY TREK TOWARD THE LAND OF SUNSETS TO START LIFE ANEW IN THE WORLD FORGOTTEN BY TIME...
WEIRD ADVENTURES AWAIT HUNT BOWMAN AND LYSSA ON THE GREAT PLAINS OF ANCIENT AMERICA..IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS!

PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 10th

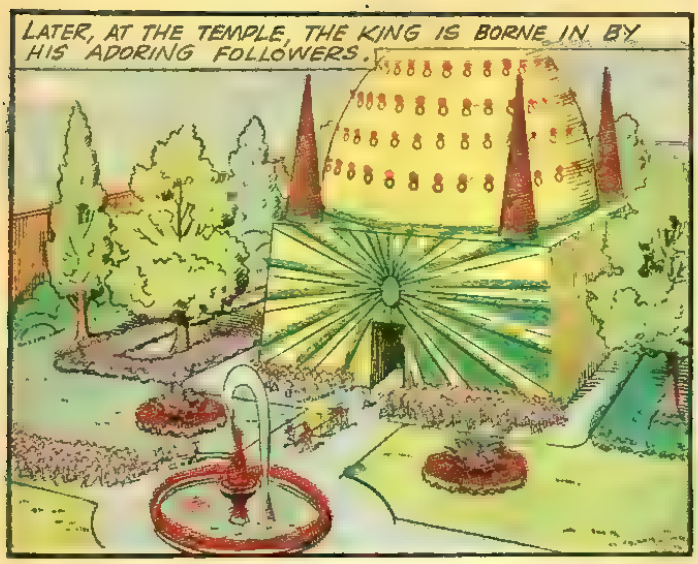
MARS
DARING EARTHMEN ATTEMPT EXPLORATION OF THE UNKNOWN VOID... AND THE WAR-GOD, MARS, EAGER TO SPREAD HIS CULT OF WAR AND HATE, STOWS AWAY FOR THE ILL-OMENED VOYAGE TO THE STARS.
ENO REX, AN UNSUCCESSFUL ENGINEER, PICKS UP A TELEVISION NEWS FLASH..
..THIRD.. ATTEMPT.. AT .. SPACE.. EXPLORATION.. .. SCHEDULED.. FOR JULY..... MAN.. ..KILLED.. IN..
SO, MITCHELL'S FOLLY LEAVES SOON.. HERE'S ONE WHO'S GOING ALONG FOR THE RIDE.
LATER, IN MITCHELL'S LABORATORY
MY NAME IS REX.. I'D LIKE TO JOIN YOUR EXPEDITION! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT HANDLING MEN.
WELL, THE OFFICERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CHOSEN. BUT WE NEED CREW MEMBERS, BY THE WAY, THIS IS JASON, THE SHIP'S DOCTOR!
AS REX LEAVES..
PERHAPS I'M WRONG, MITCH, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT FELLOW REX I DON'T LIKE.
YOU'RE JUST SUSPICIOUS, DOC!


THE NEXT MORNING, AMID SCORNFUL MURMURS OF "THIS WILL FAIL LIKE THE OTHERS! THEY'LL NEVER GET BACK ALIVE, THE FOOLS!" THE NEW SPACE SHIP IMPATIENTLY AWAITS ITS TAKEOFF.
BUT, APART FROM THE EXCITED CROWD..
A MAN WITH MY EXPERIENCE, BEING REFUSED AN OFFICER'S BERTH. IT'S A DISGRACE!
THIS IS THE MAN I NEED
SLOWLY, THE BLOOD-RED LOOK OF HATE CREEPS INTO THE EX-ENGINEER'S EYES
WHY CAN'T I TAKE COMMAND.. ONCE WE'RE OUT IN SPACE, I'LL WIN THE CREW OVER.. BUT NOW I MUST HAVE PATIENCE!
SUDDENLY, A MICROPHONE VOICE COMMANDS, "READY FOR THE TAKE-OFF.. CREW ON BOARD!"
AND CAPTAIN MARTIN APPROACHES REX..
PICK UP YOUR FEET, SPACE SAILOR.. WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY!
YES, SIR!
YOU GIVE THE ORDERS NOW.. BUT JUST WAIT AWHILE..
ALL IS READY AS A SPACE ADMIRAL'S WIFE SMASHES A BOTTLE OF LIQUID AIR.
I CHRISTEN THEE.. "SPACEMOOR"
THE SHIP ZOOMS OUT OF ITS CRADLE WITH A THUNDEROUS EXPLOSION...
12

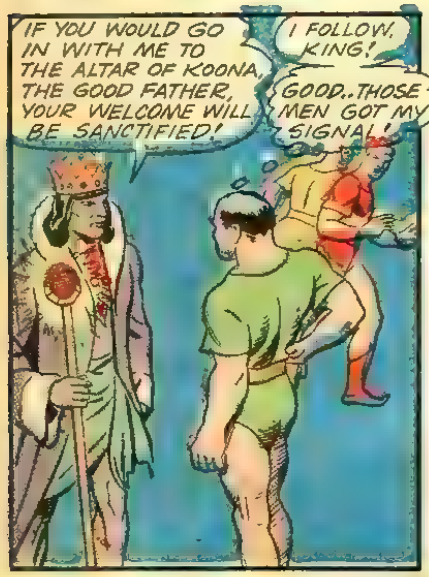
A FEW WEEK'S LATER..
CAPTAIN MARTIN I'M SPEAKING FOR THE CREW.. WE WANT TO TURN BACK! YOU'VE SHOWN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE HEADING, AND NONE OF US HAVE ANY IDEAS ABOUT BEING SPACE HEROES..
THE OFFICERS START IN SURPRISE AS REX VOICES SUCH DISRESPECT..
THIS MAN SPEAKS MUTINY.. THROW HIM IN THE BRIG AT ONCE!
BUT NONE OF THE CREW RESPOND TO THE SHARP COMMAND..
DID YOU HEAR MY COMMAND! WHAT HAS THIS MAN TOLD YOU? OUR FOOD CAPSULES AND OXYGEN SUPPLY ARE HOLDING OUT!..
NEVER MIND THE TALK, CAPTAIN.. YOU GUESSED RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, ..THIS IS MUTINY!
AS REX'S HATE TAKES VIOLENT FORM A FURIOUS BATTLE STARTS BETWEEN OFFICERS AND MEN...
CAPTAIN MARTIN AND DR JASON FIGHT BRAVELY WITH THE OTHER OFFICERS, BUT THEY ARE OUTNUMBERED AND REX TAKES COMMAND..
NOW, GENTLEMEN, YOU ARE REALLY GOING TO EXPLORE SPACE. CATAPULT THEM ONE BY ONE FROM THE SPACE LOCKS!
AS THE MEN COME TO THE LAST OFFICER...
WAIT A MINUTE, WE'LL KEEP JASON.. YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHEN A DOC WILL BE NEEDED!.. AND NOW, WE CAN REALLY EXPLORE..
3

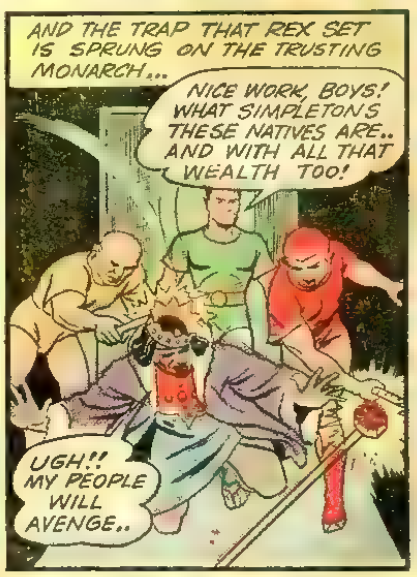
BUT, ENO, YOU PROMISED US WE'D GO BACK TO EARTH!
WELL, PLANS HAVE CHANGED ..WE'RE HEADING FOR ASTELGUESE, AND QUICKLY!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL UNDERSTAND THAT I'M GIVING THE ORDERS FROM NOW ON.. OR YOU'LL ALL GET THE SAME TREATMENT THOSE OFFICERS DID! ANYONE WHO CROSSES ME DOESN'T LIVE TO TALK ABOUT IT!
YOU'LL GET YOURS, REX!
THE CREW DISCUSSES ENO'S THREAT..
BUT WE DIDN'T KILL THOSE MEN JUST TO GIVE HIM COMMAND OF THE SHIP.. WE WANT TO GET BACK TO OUR HOMES!
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT NO ONE ELSE KNOWS AS MUCH ABOUT THIS CRAFT AS HE DOES.. I THINK WE'D BETTER STICK WITH HIM AWHILE!
NOW, THAT'S A WISE MAN! YOU PUNKS WILL GET BACK TO EARTH ALL RIGHT.. BUT NOT EMPTY HANDED! THIS PLANETOID I'M HEADING FOR IS LOUSY WITH GOLD!
FINALLY, THE MAJORITY OF THE MEN AGREE TO STRING ALONG.
THAT SOUNDS SENSIBLE TO ME! AFTER ALL, WE CAN USE THE EXTRA MONEY, CAN'T WE?
BUT..
WHY NOT! WE MIGHT AS WELL GET SOMETHING FOR ALL OUR TROUBLE.. AND WE CAN KEEP AN EYE ON REX..
AND REX, PLEASED WITH THE SUCCESS OF HIS NEFARIOUS PLOT, CONTINUES TO SEARCH FOR HIS GOLDMINE IN THE SKY..
IF MY FIGURES ARE RIGHT, ASTELGUESE SHOULD BE NEAR NOW.. WAIT..I THINK I SEE..
THEN, BELOW THE SPACE FRIGATE, LOOMS A BRIGHT ISLAND, THICK WITH BRILLIANTLY COLORED FOLIAGE, BANKED BY STEEP ROCKY CRAGS...
SPACEM

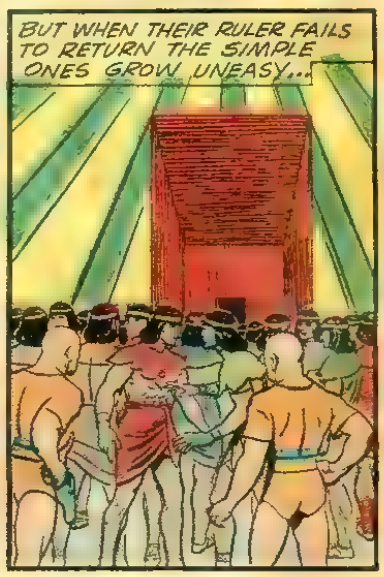
AFTER CIRCLING SEVERAL TIMES, THEY FIND A SMOOTH STRIP OF BEACH.. A NATURAL LANDING FIELD.
THE MEN JUMP OUT, EXCITED AND EAGER..
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING HERE!
HEY, WHAT'S BEHIND THAT BUSH!
IT IS A FRIENDLY NATIVE, WATCHING THEM.. WHEN HE COMES OUT, THE MEN'S EYES ARE BLINDED BY THE GLINTING GOLD OF HIS APPAREL...
REX ORDERS THE MAN TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE HIM..
GREETINGS, BROTHER! WE COME AS FRIENDS...WHERE IS YOUR LEADER?
OUR GREAT KING HAS HOME AWAY IN HILLS.. BRIGHT-STONED HOME!
AT THE SUGGESTION OF JEWELS, THE SELF-MADE TYRANT'S GREEDY EYES GLEAM WITH MANIACAL FIRE..
GO AT ONCE WITH THIS MAN TO HIS LEADER AND REQUEST AN AUDIENCE FOR ME!
RIGHT!
I LEAD THEM!
AS SOON AS THE MESSENGERS LEAVE..
NOW, IF YOU'LL ALL FOLLOW MY PLAN, WE'LL LEAVE HERE RICH MEN! WHEN I MEET THE KING, I WILL ASK HIM ALONE.. THAT WILL BE OUR CHANCE.. KILL HIM AND ESCAPE WITH THE RANSOM..
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT. WE'LL ALL BE KILLED
BUT JASON IS NOT ALLOWED TO FINISH HIS SENTENCE...
AND WHO ASKED YOUR OPINION, DOCTOR? TRY TREATING YOURSELF!
THEN..
WHAT ARE YOU MEN DOING BACK SO SOON?
WAIT, REX, WE'RE IN LUCK! WE MET THE BIG SHOT ON HIS WAY TO A FESTIVAL NEAR HERE.. HE SENDS A ROYAL WELCOME TO THE VISITORS FROM THE SKY AND WILL MEET YOU AT THE TEMPLE OF KOONA!
5

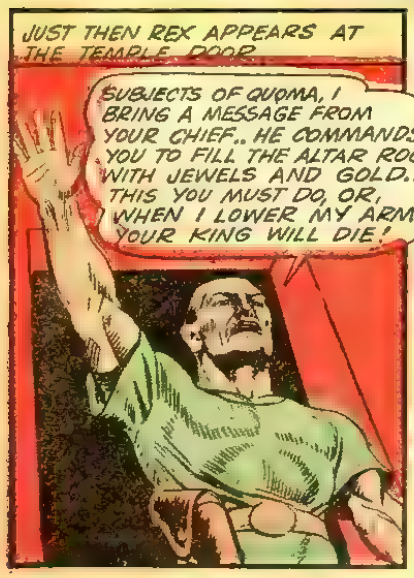

LATER, AT THE TEMPLE, THE KING IS BORNE IN BY HIS ADORING FOLLOWERS.

AS REX GOES TO MEET THE ROYAL HOST.. HE CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THE BRILLIANCE OF HIS DRESS..EMERALDS, RUBIES, DIAMONDS, MORE THAN HE CAN COUNT!
HAIL, KING!
WE GREET THEE, SKY MAN.


IF YOU WOULD GO IN WITH ME TO THE ALTAR OF KOONA, THE GOOD FATHER, YOUR WELCOME WILL BE SANCTIFIED!
I FOLLOW, KING!
GOOD..THOSE MEN GOT MY SIGNAL!


AND THE TRAP THAT REX SET IS SPRUNG ON THE TRUSTING MONARCH...
NICE WORK, BOYS! WHAT SIMPLETONS THESE NATIVES ARE.. AND WITH ALL THAT WEALTH TOO!
UGH!! MY PEOPLE WILL AVENGE..

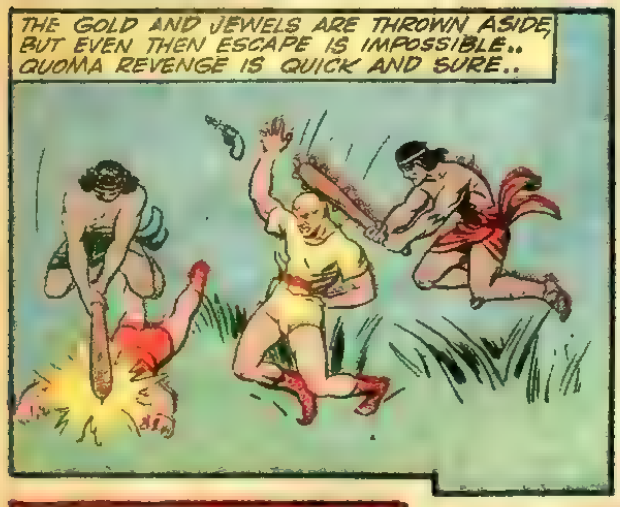

BUT WHEN THEIR RULER FAILS TO RETURN THE SIMPLE ONES GROW UNEASY...

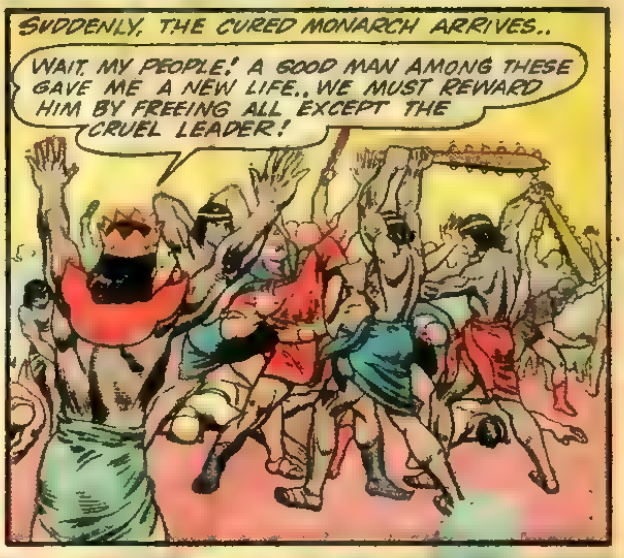

JUST THEN REX APPEARS AT THE TEMPLE DOOR.
SUBJECTS OF QUOMA, I BRING A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHIEF.. HE COMMANDS YOU TO FILL THE ALTAR ROOM WITH JEWELS AND GOLD.. THIS YOU MUST DO, OR, WHEN I LOWER MY ARM YOUR KING WILL DIE!

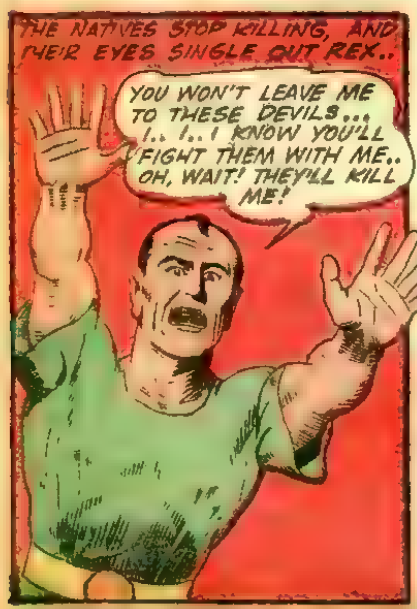
THE TERRIFIED NATIVES OFFER NO RESISTANCE, BUT FILE OUT TO BRING THEIR TREASURE.. A FEW CREW MEMBERS WITH READY RAY-GUNS ACCOMPANY THEM...
WE MUST NOT LET KING DIE!
WE GET GOLD, QUICK!
6

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, THE MASSIVE, VAULTED ALTAR ROOM IS BRIGHT WITH PRECIOUS STONES AND GLEAMING METAL.
THIS WASN'T A BAD IDEA OF REX'S!
WE'LL BE RICH ALL RIGHT... BUT I FEEL GUILTY ROBBING THOSE POOR DEVILS!
AS THE CREW START PACKING THE PRICELESS CARGO INTO THE "SPACEMOOR," REX SUMMONS THE BETRAYED RULER TO HIM...
NOW, I GIVE YOU YOUR FREEDOM! HA!.. HA!
YOU.. YOU..
THE NATIVES FALL PRONE IN HORROR, AS REX AND HIS MEN MAKE THEIR ESCAPE, BUT DR. JASON AND A FRIEND GO TO THE FALLEN KING..
HELP ME CARRY HIM INTO THAT SMALL ROOM OVER THERE!
YES, DOCTOR!
MEANWHILE, ON THEIR WAY TO THE SHIP.
DON'T LEAVE ANY OF THAT GOLD HERE.. AND HURRY! THE NATIVES MAY SOON START TROUBLE!
THE DOCTOR WORKS FAST
BY INJECTING THIS ANTI-RAY SERUM INTO HIS VEINS IMMEDIATELY, HIS RECOVERY WILL BE ASSURED.. PERHAPS THIS WILL MAKE UP FOR SOME OF THE HARM REX HAS DONE!
THEY RUSH OUT.. BUT NOT BEFORE THE KING REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS RECOGNIZES HIS SAVIOR...
MAN, GIVE ME BACK LIFE...! REMEMBER!
HOWEVER, THE QUOMAS - IMPELLED BY BLOODY HATE - ARE PURSUING THE MEN WHO ROBBED AND MURDERED THEIR KING...

FASTER..AND FASTER THEY RUN THROUGH THE BLUE-GREEN TANGLED OVERBRUSH... UNTIL...
YOU KILL KING!
YOU DIE TOO!
HELP.. I DIDN'T MEAN TO ROB YOU!




SUDDENLY, THE CURED MONARCH ARRIVES..
WAIT, MY PEOPLE! A GOOD MAN AMONG THESE GAVE ME A NEW LIFE.. WE MUST REWARD HIM BY FREEING ALL EXCEPT THE CRUEL LEADER!


THE NATIVES STOP KILLING, AND THEIR EYES SINGLE OUT REX..
YOU WON'T LEAVE ME TO THESE DEVILS... I.. I..! KNOW YOU'LL FIGHT THEM WITH ME.. OH, WAIT! THEY'LL KILL ME!

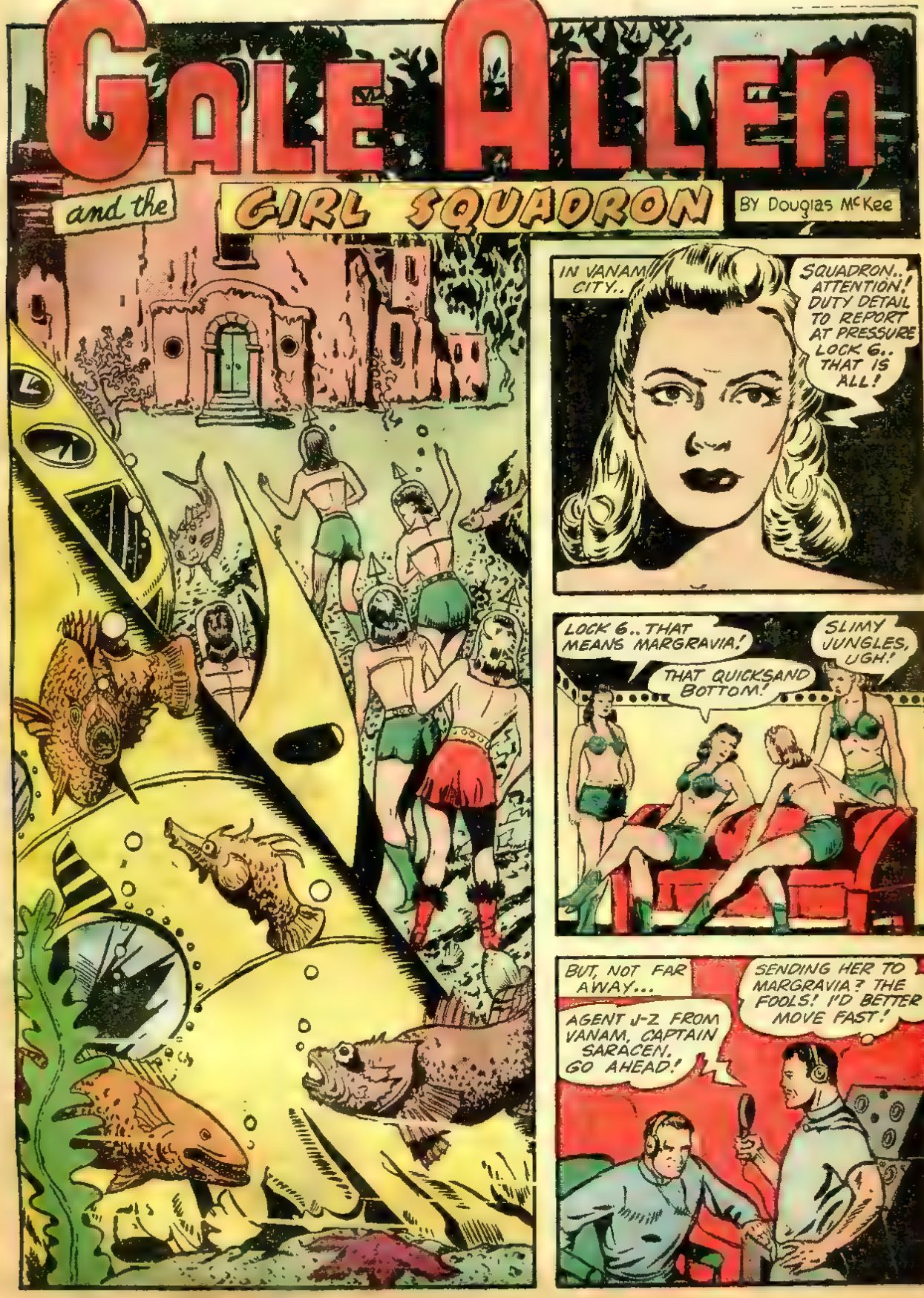
AND MARS ALSO DESERTS REX...
BAH, ONCE MORE MY VICTIM HAS FAILED ME! .. BUT NEXT TIME...
MARS, GOD OF WAR, UNLEASHES THE HOUNDS OF DOOM IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

VICTORY BEGINS AT HOME... BUY MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!

GALE ALLEN

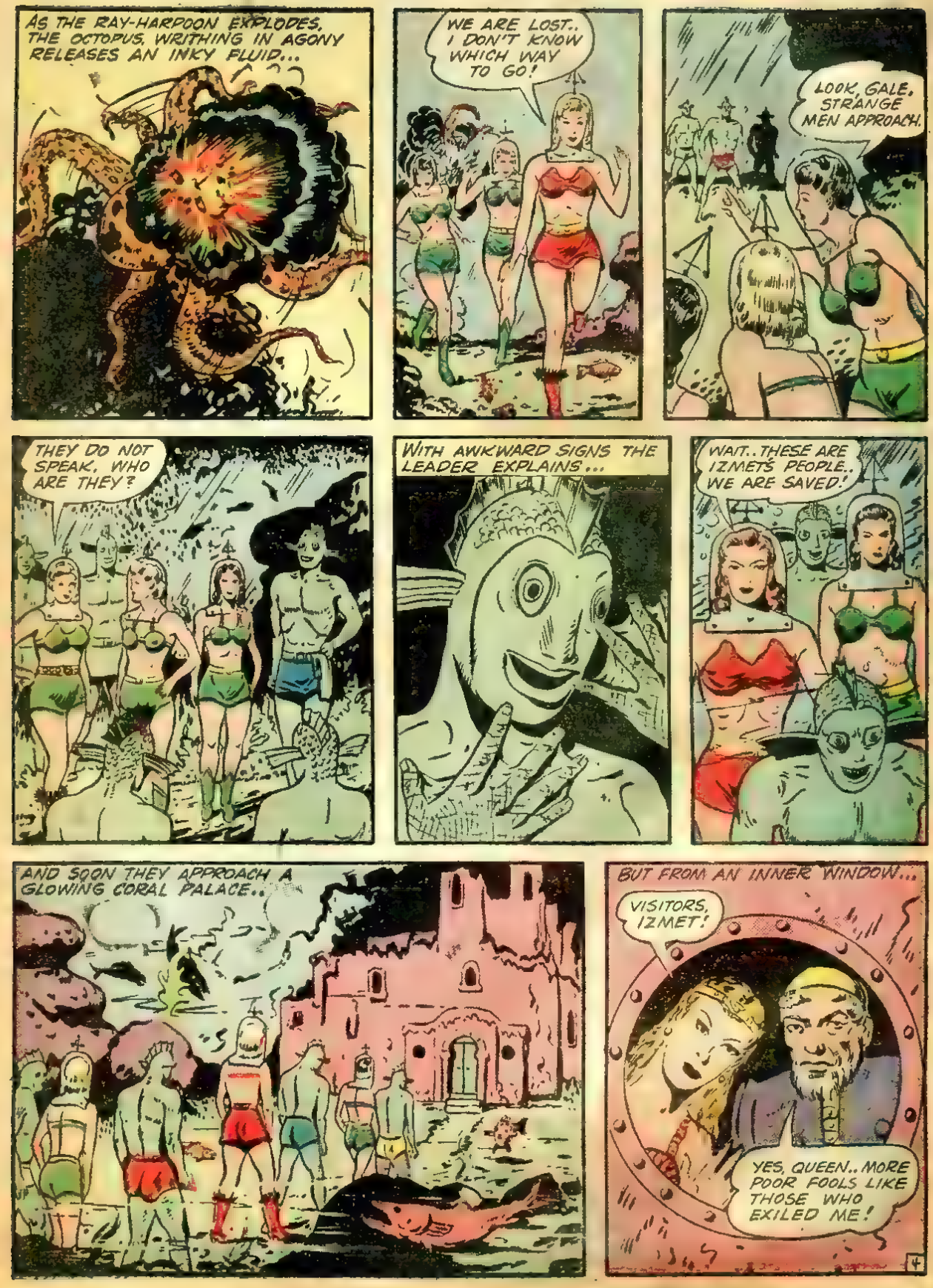
and the GIRL SQUADRON

BY Douglas McKee


IN VANAM CITY..
SQUADRON.. ATTENTION! DUTY DETAIL TO REPORT AT PRESSURE LOCK 6.. THAT IS ALL!
LOCK 6.. THAT MEANS MARGRAVIA!
SLIMY JUNGLES, UGH!
THAT QUICKSAND BOTTOM!
BUT, NOT FAR AWAY...
SENDING HER TO MARGRAVIA? THE FOOLS! I'D BETTER MOVE FAST!
AGENT J-Z FROM VANAM. CAPTAIN SARACEN. GO AHEAD!

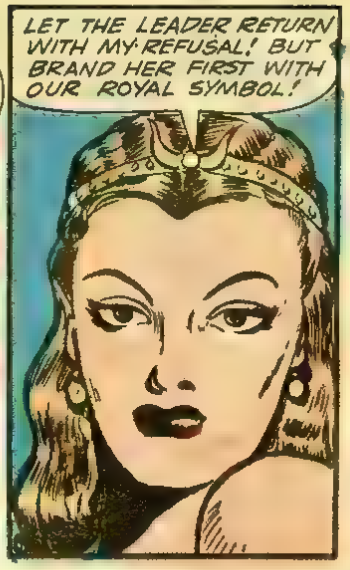
AT LOCK #6..
STOP COMPLAINING! THIS IS AN ERRAND OF MERCY.. WE'RE TAKING A PARDON TO IZMET!
IZMET, THE SCIENTIST! BUT WASN'T HE EXILED FOR SOMETHING HORRIBLE?
MAYBE MARGRAVIA HAS REFORMED HIM!
SHIP ALL READY? WATER LANES ALL CLEAR?
EVERYTHING IN ORDER, MISS, YOU CAN TAKE OFF AT ONCE!
BUT AT ANOTHER SUBMARINE LOCK..
GOOD WORK, MEN! RELEASE THE PRISONERS WHEN I'M CLEAR!
TELL THE HIGH COMMISSIONER I'M SORRY, BUT I NEEDED A SEA ROTOR IN A HURRY.. SO LONG!
AND AS GALE'S ROTOR SPEEDS ALONG..
WHAT.. WHAT'S WRONG? WE... WE'RE SLOWING!
WE'RE STOPPED! LOOK.. AT THE PORTHOLE!!
WHA.. WHAT IS IT?

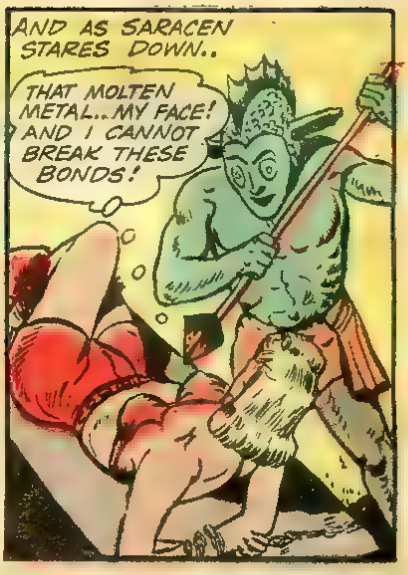
A GIANT OCTOPUS HOLDS THE SMALL ROCKET SHIP IN ITS STEEL-LIKE TENTACLES...
THE PLATES ARE CRACKING.. WE'LL ALL BE CRUSHED!
PUT ON HELMETS, ABANDON SHIP.
I'LL TAKE THE RAY-HARPOON, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES!
IT'S.. IT'S COMING AT ME...
THE HARPOON! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!
THE MONSTER DRAWS GALE CLOSE TO ITS GAPING MAW.
I MUST DRIVE BETWEEN ITS EYES.. OR ELSE..
MADE IT!
3


AS THE RAY-HARPOON EXPLODES, THE OCTOPUS, WRITHING IN AGONY RELEASES AN INKY FLUID...
WE ARE LOST.. I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO!
LOOK, GALE, STRANGE MEN APPROACH.
THEY DO NOT SPEAK. WHO ARE THEY?
WITH AWKWARD SIGNS THE LEADER EXPLAINS...
WAIT..THESE ARE IZMET'S PEOPLE.. WE ARE SAVED!
AND SOON THEY APPROACH A GLOWING CORAL PALACE..
BUT FROM AN INNER WINDOW...
VISITORS, IZMET!
YES, QUEEN.. MORE POOR FOOLS LIKE THOSE WHO EXILED ME!
4

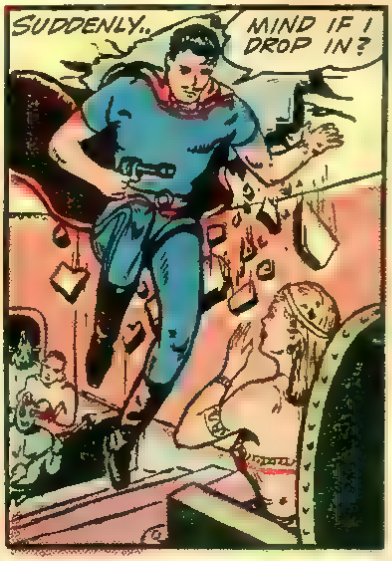
MEANWHILE, AS CAPTAIN SARACEN CRUISES ON..
HER SHIP WRECKED.. THAT OCTOSAUR!
THEY'VE ESCAPED..BUT WHERE? I'LL HAVE TO SCOUT AHEAD AND TRUST TO LUCK!
SOON..
CORAL CASTLE.. GUARD AT THE ENTRY.. IZMET'S JOINT, I'LL BET MY SEA BOOTS!
AND AS THE GUARD PATROLS HIS POST..
PARDON MY FLIPPER, FINHEAD!
RACING UP THE INNER STAIRS, HE PAUSES BY A NARROW PORT..
NO! IT CAN'T BE!

IN THE VAST CHAMBER BELOW..
A PARDON FROM VANAM? I AM AZA, RULER OF ALL MARGRAVIA, AND IN IZMET'S NAME I REFUSE IT!


LET THE LEADER RETURN WITH MY REFUSAL! BUT BRAND HER FIRST WITH OUR ROYAL SYMBOL!


AND AS SARACEN STARES DOWN..
THAT MOLTEN METAL..MY FACE! AND I CANNOT BREAK THESE BONDS!

I MUSTN'T SCREAM.. I MUST..WAIT! WHAT'S THAT ABOVE? THE FIGURE THERE...THE WALL CRACKING!


SUDDENLY..
MIND IF I DROP IN?

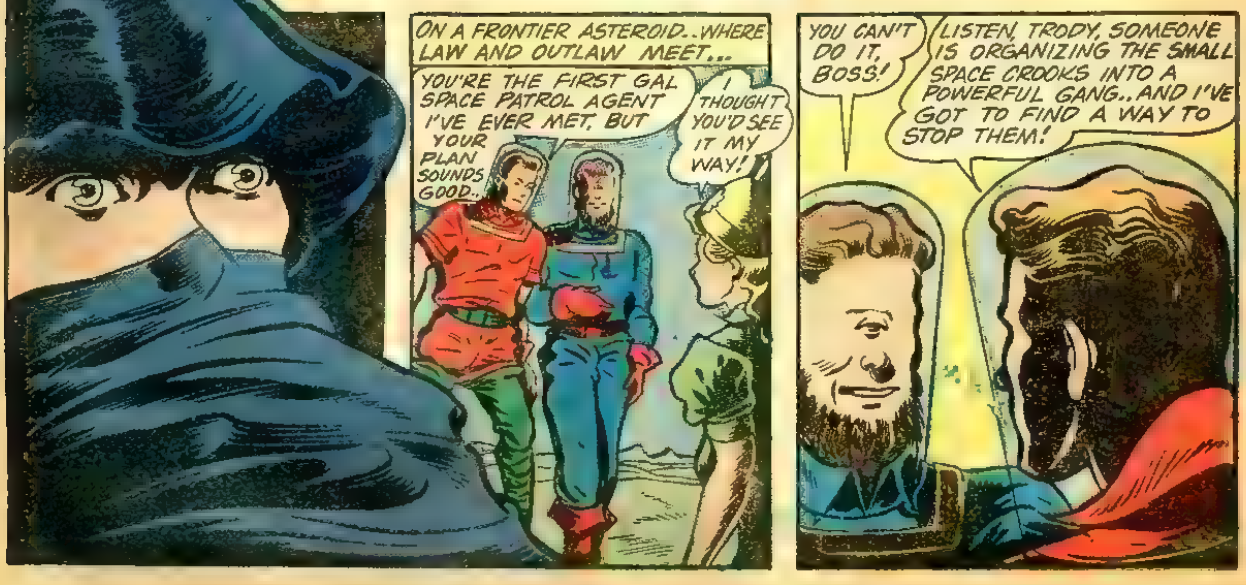
GUARDS! KILL HIM!
I'LL TEND TO YOU FIRST, IZMET!

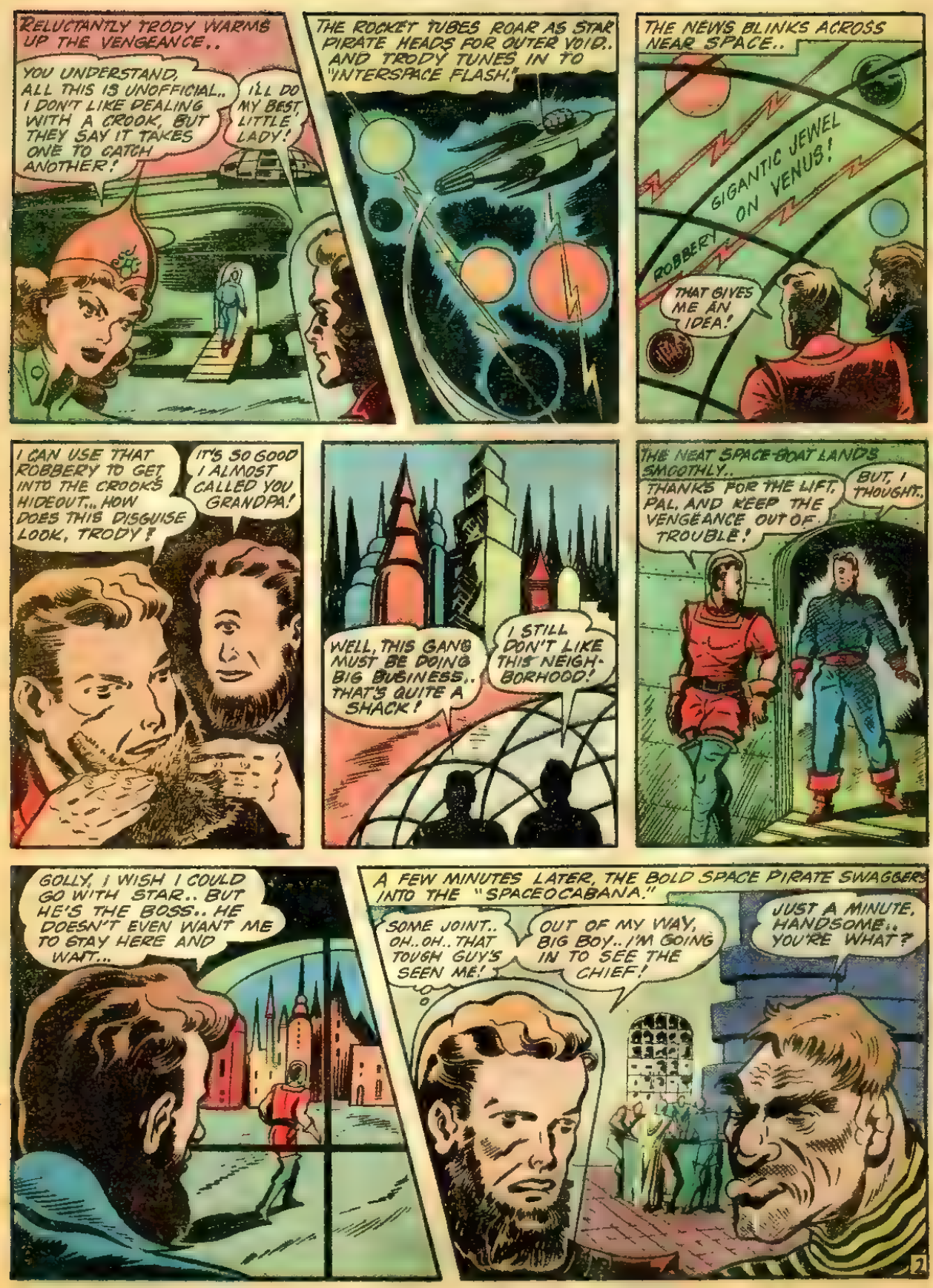
AND UNLESS MARGRAVIA WANTS A DEAD QUEEN, YOU'LL RELEASE THE PRISONERS. AZA!
DON'T..DON'T SHOOT! FREE THEM, GUARDS..LET THEM GO UNHARMED!

AND AS SARACEN PILOTS TO SAFETY..
NO! GET AWAY!
YOU'RE SHIVERING, GALE..ARE YOU COLD? NEED A GOOD STRONG ARM AROUND YOU?
BUT IF HE ONLY WASN'T AN OUTLAW!
MORE WEIRD ADVENTURES FOR GALE AND HER STARDUST SQUAD IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS!

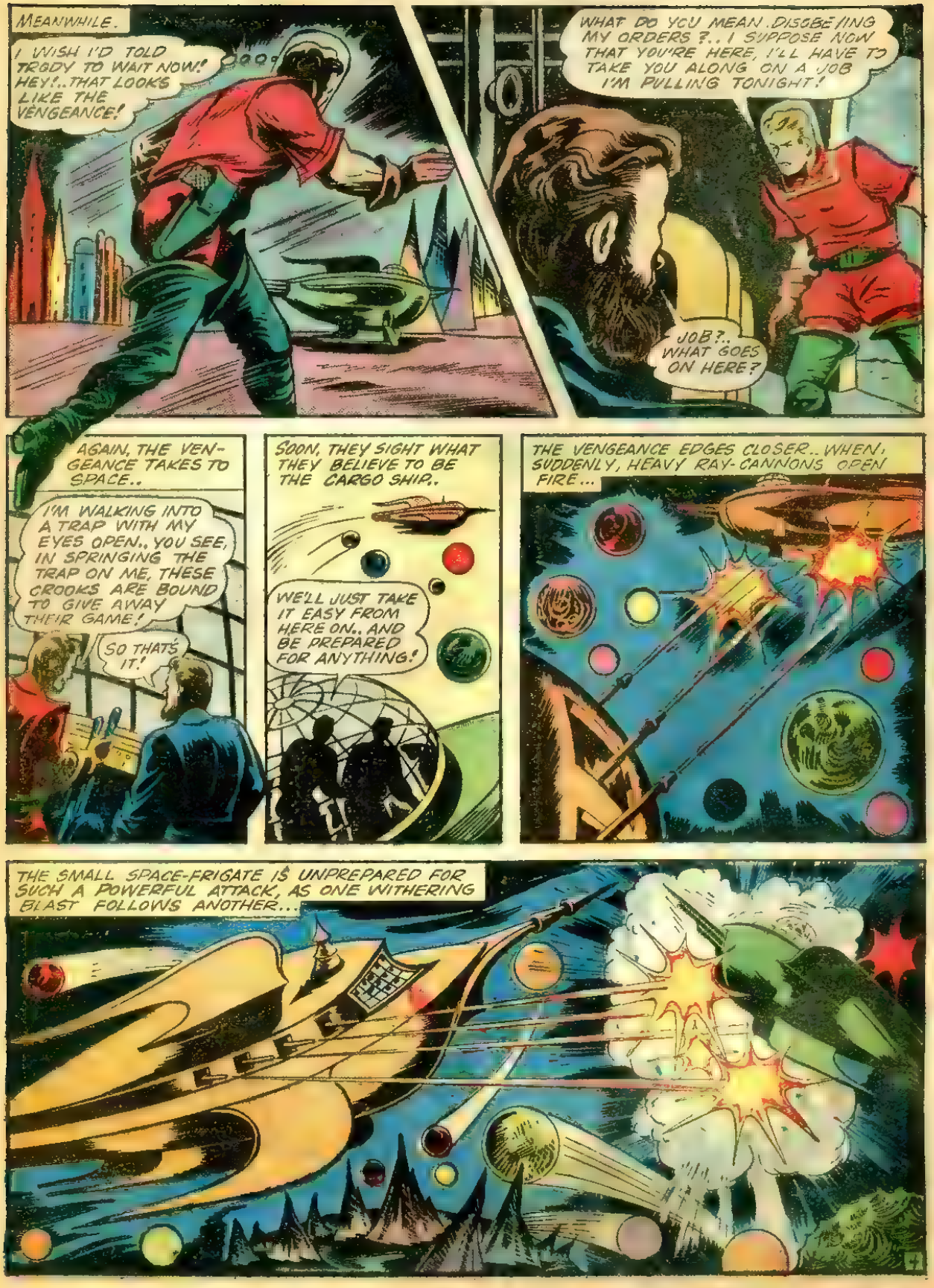
Star Pirate

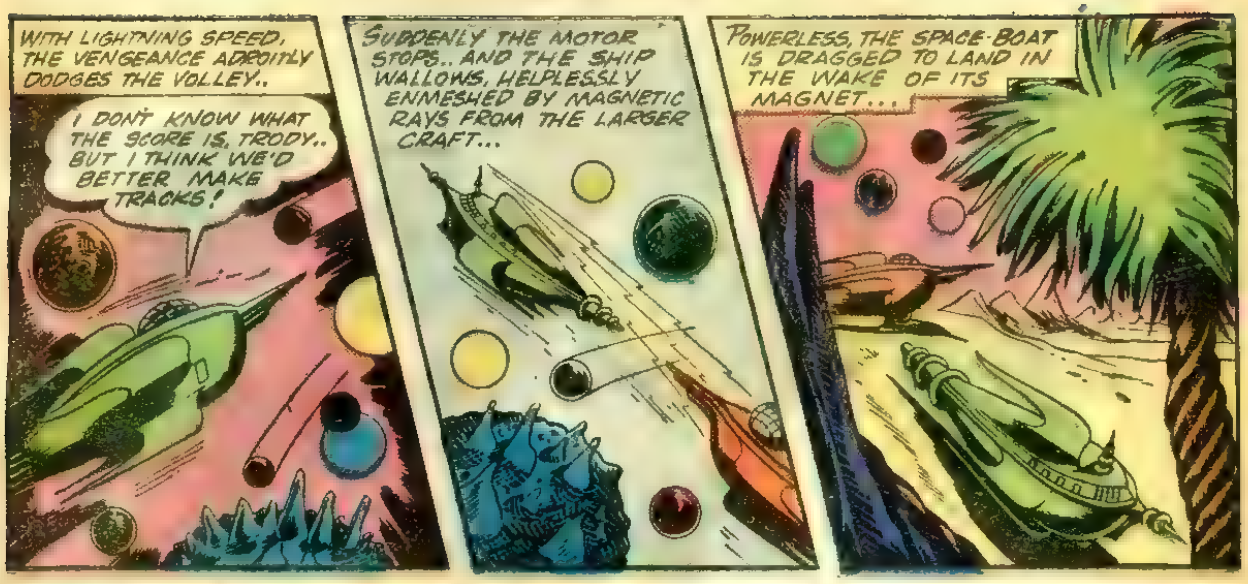
By GEORGE VINCENT

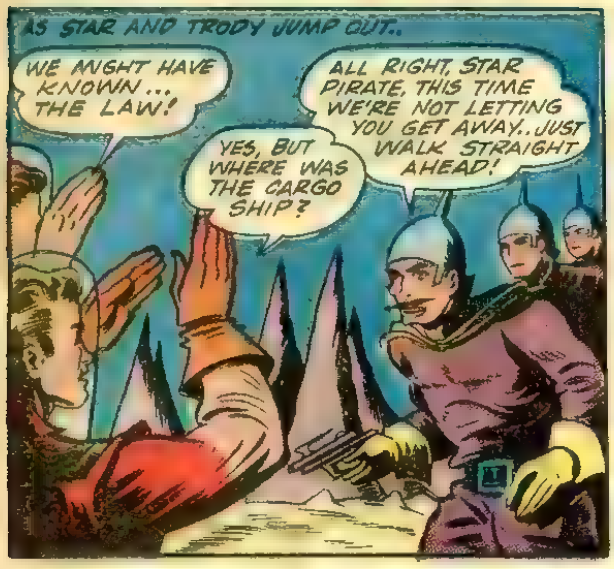

ON A FRONTIER ASTEROID..WHERE LAW AND OUTLAW MEET...
YOU'RE THE FIRST GAL SPACE PATROL AGENT I'VE EVER MET, BUT YOUR PLAN SOUNDS GOOD..
I THOUGHT YOU'D SEE IT MY WAY!
YOU CAN'T DO IT, BOSS!
LISTEN, TRODY, SOMEONE IS ORGANIZING THE SMALL SPACE CROOKS INTO A POWERFUL GANG..AND I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THEM!


RELUCTANTLY TRODY WARMS UP THE VENGEANCE..
YOU UNDERSTAND, ALL THIS IS UNOFFICIAL.. I DON'T LIKE DEALING WITH A CROOK, BUT THEY SAY IT TAKES ONE TO CATCH ANOTHER!
I'LL DO MY BEST, LITTLE LADY!
THE ROCKET TUBES ROAR AS STAR PIRATE HEADS FOR OUTER VOID.. AND TRODY TUNES IN TO "INTERSPACE FLASH."
THE NEWS BLINKS ACROSS NEAR SPACE..
ROBBERY
GIGANTIC JEWEL ON VENUS!
THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
I CAN USE THAT ROBBERY TO GET INTO THE CROOK'S HIDEOUT.. HOW DOES THIS DISGUISE LOOK, TRODY?
IT'S SO GOOD I ALMOST CALLED YOU GRANDPA!
WELL, THIS GANG MUST BE DOING BIG BUSINESS.. THAT'S QUITE A SHACK!
I STILL DON'T LIKE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!
THE NEAT SPACE-BOAT LANDS SMOOTHLY..
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, PAL. AND KEEP THE VENGEANCE OUT OF TROUBLE!
BUT, I THOUGHT..
GOLLY, I WISH I COULD GO WITH STAR.. BUT HE'S THE BOSS.. HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT ME TO STAY HERE AND WAIT...
A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE BOLD SPACE PIRATE SWAGGERS INTO THE "SPACEOCABANA."
SOME JOINT.. OH..OH..THAT TOUGH GUY'S SEEN ME!
OUT OF MY WAY, BIG BOY..I'M GOING IN TO SEE THE CHIEF!
JUST A MINUTE, HANDSOME.. YOU'RE WHAT?

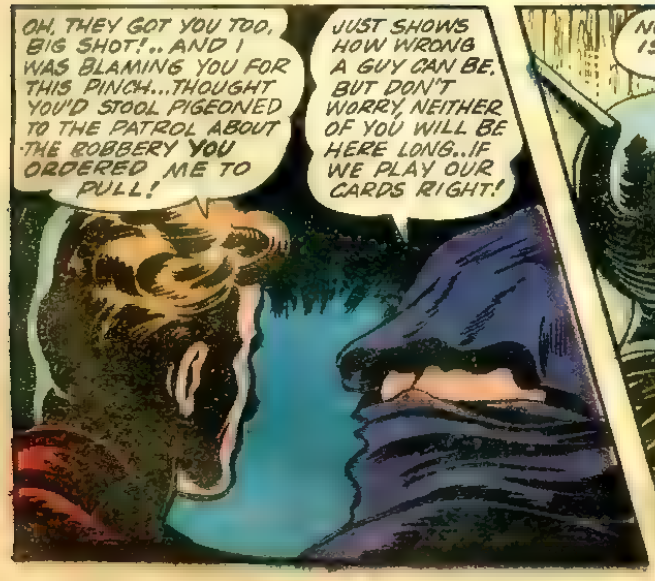
OUT OF MY WAY, ALL OF YOU.. I JUST PULLED THAT JEWEL ROBBERY ON VENUS, AND I'VE GOT A DEAL TO MAKE WITH YOUR CHIEF!
THAT MUST BE THE OFFICE IN THE BACK.. I'LL MAKE A DASH FOR IT!
INSIDE
WHAT..
RELAX, BIG BOY, WE'VE GOT THINGS TO SAY TO EACH OTHER.. THAT'S ALL!
THE HOODED FIGURE SPEAKS IN A TONELESS, HUSKY VOICE..
ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN DROP THE BEARD... STAR PIRATE!
HOLY HANNAH.. WAS THE DISGUISE THAT BAD?.. I CAME HERE TO JOIN UP WITH YOUR GANG!
SO, YOU'RE SICK OF FIGHTING THE SPACE PATROL ALONE, EH? WELL, WE COULD USE YOU IF I THOUGHT YOU'D PLAY STRAIGHT.. WAIT A MINUTE.. TONIGHT THE JUPITER TO VENUS CARGO SHIP MAKES A WEEKLY TRIP.. YOU DO A GOOD JOB ON IT... YOU'RE IN!
FAIR ENOUGH!
AS SOON AS STAR PIRATE LEAVES..
YOU SUMMONED ME, MIGHTY ONE?
AT LAST I THINK WE HAVE STAR PIRATE WHERE WE WANT HIM!
BUT YOU ALLOWED HIM TO GO... YOU DIDN'T THROW HIM IN THE DUNGEON AS WE PLANNED..
FORCE WOULD GET US NOWHERE WITH HIM.. IF WE ARE TO GET HIS WEALTH, PLAY IT SLICK..
TONIGHT, SOME OF YOU ARE PUTTING ON A MASQUERADE PARTY IN SPACE PATROL OUTFITS.. WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THAT LUG SO GRATEFUL TO US THAT HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO PAY OFF!
YOU'RE TOO CLEVER FOR ME, GREAT ONE!

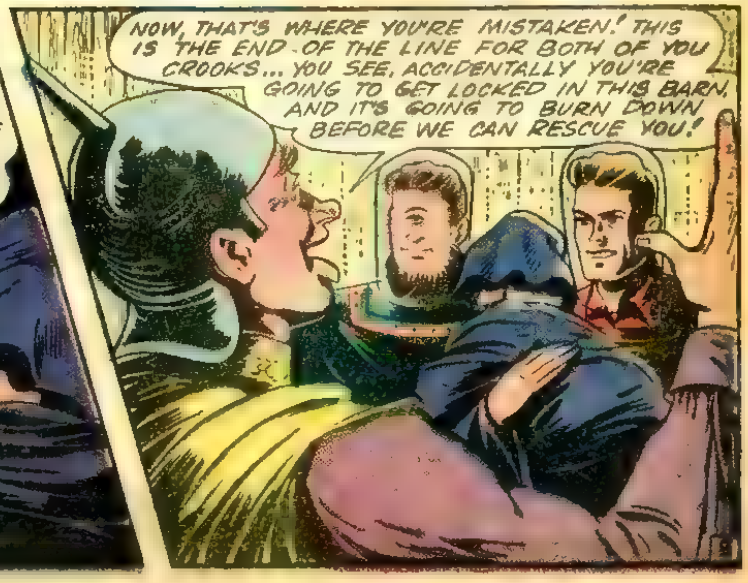

MEANWHILE.
I WISH I'D TOLD TRODY TO WAIT NOW! HEY!..THAT LOOKS LIKE THE VENGEANCE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN..DISOBEYING MY ORDERS?..I SUPPOSE NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU ALONG ON A JOB I'M PULLING TONIGHT!
JOB?.. WHAT GOES ON HERE?
AGAIN, THE VENGEANCE TAKES TO SPACE..
I'M WALKING INTO A TRAP WITH MY EYES OPEN..YOU SEE, IN SPRINGING THE TRAP ON ME, THESE CROOKS ARE BOUND TO GIVE AWAY THEIR GAME!
SO THAT'S IT!
SOON, THEY SIGHT WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE THE CARGO SHIP..
WE'LL JUST TAKE IT EASY FROM HERE ON..AND BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING!
THE VENGEANCE EDGES CLOSER..WHEN, SUDDENLY, HEAVY RAY-CANNONS OPEN FIRE...
THE SMALL SPACE-FRIGATE IS UNPREPARED FOR SUCH A POWERFUL ATTACK, AS ONE WITHERING BLAST FOLLOWS ANOTHER...


WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, THE VENGEANCE ADROITLY DODGES THE VOLLEY..
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SCORE IS, TRODY.. BUT I THINK WE'D BETTER MAKE TRACKS!
SUDDENLY THE MOTOR STOPS.. AND THE SHIP WALLOWS, HELPLESSLY ENMESHED BY MAGNETIC RAYS FROM THE LARGER CRAFT...
POWERLESS, THE SPACE-BOAT IS DRAGGED TO LAND IN THE WAKE OF ITS MAGNET...


AS STAR AND TRODY JUMP OUT..
WE MIGHT HAVE KNOWN... THE LAW!
YES, BUT WHERE WAS THE CARGO SHIP?
ALL RIGHT, STAR PIRATE, THIS TIME WE'RE NOT LETTING YOU GET AWAY.. JUST WALK STRAIGHT AHEAD!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, TRODY AND STAR ARE INVITED AT GUN POINT INTO A HUGE DESERTED BARN...
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
WELL, OUR ORDERS ARE TO MAKE LIKE FRANK BUCK, AND BRING YOU BACK ALIVE.. BUT WE'RE NOT TAKING ANY MORE CHANCES.. YOU, AND THE BIG SHOT HERE ARE...


OH, THEY GOT YOU TOO, BIG SHOT!.. AND I WAS BLAMING YOU FOR THIS PINCH... THOUGHT YOU'D STOOL PIGEONED TO THE PATROL ABOUT THE ROBBERY YOU ORDERED ME TO PULL!
JUST SHOWS HOW WRONG A GUY CAN BE. BUT DON'T WORRY, NEITHER OF YOU WILL BE HERE LONG.. IF WE PLAY OUR CARDS RIGHT!


NOW, THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE MISTAKEN! THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR BOTH OF YOU CROOKS... YOU SEE, ACCIDENTALLY YOU'RE GOING TO GET LOCKED IN THIS BARN, AND IT'S GOING TO BURN DOWN BEFORE WE CAN RESCUE YOU!

NOW, THAT'S WHAT I CALL A SPORTING CHANCE! IF WE DID MANAGE TO ESCAPE, YOU'D..
WE'D TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN SHOOTING YOU DOWN... ONE BY ONE! WELL, HAPPY LANDING, PIRATE!
NICE BOYS!
AS SOON AS THEY HAVE LEFT..
THAT FOOL! MY MEN WILL GET US OUT OF HERE... OF COURSE, IF WE RESCUE YOU TWO, PART OF YOUR WEALTH..
WAIT A MINUTE! ... I KNEW THERE'D BE A PRICE!
WELL, YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE.. DOESN'T LEAVE MUCH CHOICE, DOES IT? HEY..
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT, MISS BIG SHOT!
HEY.. THE SPACE PATROL GAL!.. WHAT GOES?
THE VOICE GAVE HER AWAY.. I'VE SUSPECTED THAT ZOOT SPOOK SUIT COVERED CURVES FOR QUITE AWHILE.. NOW WHAT'S THE GAG, SISTER?
JUST THEN, FROM OUTSIDE...
WELL.. WHOEVER SHE IS, HER FRIENDS CAN FIGHT!
BANG
POW
WHAM
YES, BUT THERE'S NO USE WEARING THEM OUT FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT! I'LL UNLOCK THE DOOR AND...
WELL I'LL BE... THIS WHOLE THING'S A FRAME-UP!
O.K. BOYS.. THE SHOW'S OVER! YOU CAN STOP FIGHTING!
THAT'S ONCE YOU'RE WRONG.. ARE YOU WITH ME, TRODY?
LET'S GO!

STAR PIRATE AND TRODY DASH PAST THE GIRL...
I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING.. BUT IT'S AWAY FROM HERE!
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, STAR!

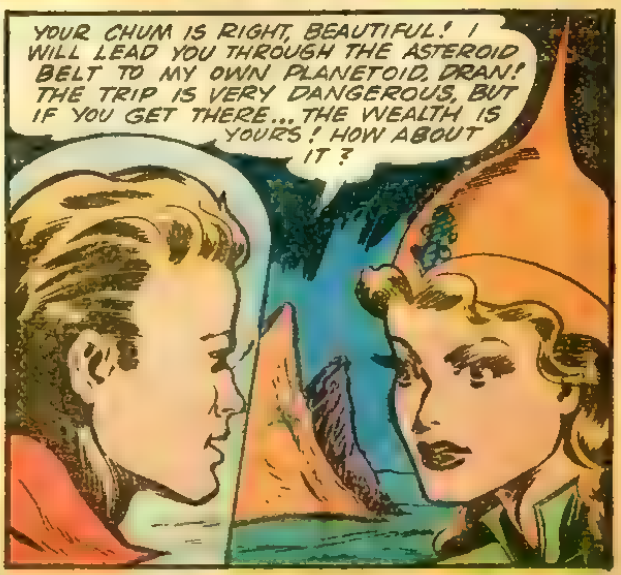
THE GANG REALIZES WHAT'S HAPPENING AND SNAPS INTO ACTION... BUT SO DO THE TWO SPACE-PALS...
SAVE SOME FOR ME, TRODY!

HOWEVER, THEY ARE HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED...
O.K. YOU'VE GOT US!.. WHAT HAPPENS NOW? IT'S NOT MUCH FUN TO KILL A FELLOW OUTLAW WITHOUT GIVING HIM A CHANCE!

LISTEN, PIRATE, TALKING WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD! YOU'VE BEEN IN MY WAY TOO LONG.. I THOUGHT I COULD GET AT YOUR MONEY BY CONVINCING YOU THAT WE COULD WORK TOGETHER, BUT...

SO YOU THINK IF I'M RUBBED OUT, YOU'LL HAVE A CLEAR FIELD FOR ALL YOUR CROOKED SCHEMES, AND BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER MY MONEY TOO... WELL, YOU'LL NEVER FIND IT!

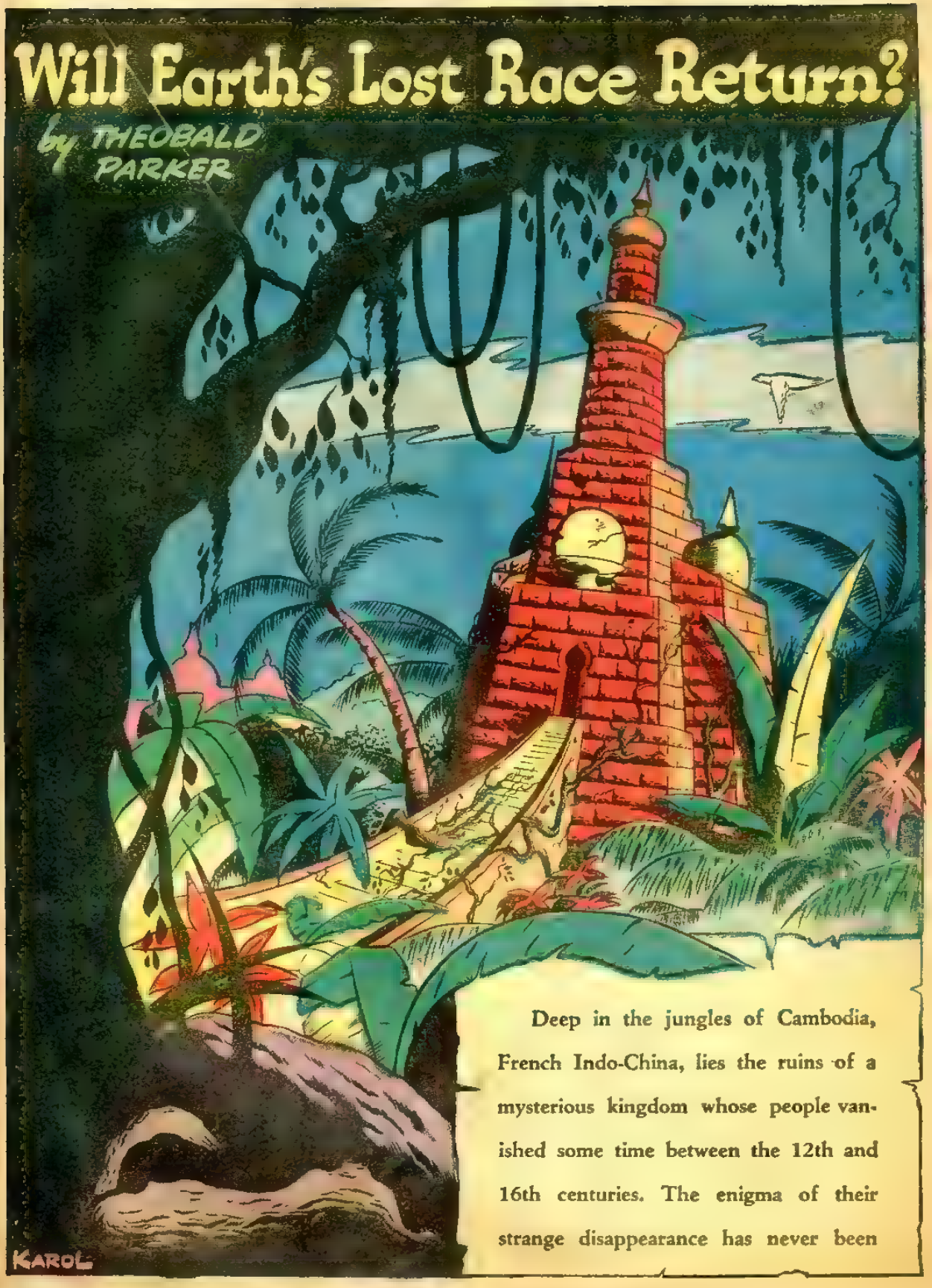
MIGHTY ONE, I FEAR THE ENEMY IS RIGHT THIS TIME! I HAVE HEARD HIS WEALTH IS HIDDEN FAR AWAY... PERHAPS THE PIRATE HAS A PROPOSITION... AND YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A WINNING GAMBLER!


YOUR CHUM IS RIGHT, BEAUTIFUL! I WILL LEAD YOU THROUGH THE ASTEROID BELT TO MY OWN PLANETOID, DRAN! THE TRIP IS VERY DANGEROUS, BUT IF YOU GET THERE... THE WEALTH IS YOURS! HOW ABOUT IT?

AFTER A MOMENT'S HESITATION...
FINE! I'LL BET MY FLYING AGAINST YOURS ANYWHERE.. WHO WILL VOLUNTEER TO GO ALONG?
WELL.. BRAVE MEN YOU HAVE!
I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU, GREAT ONE!
AS THE FOUR LEAVE..
I'LL DEAL WITH YOU COWARDS WHEN WE GET BACK!
LATER..
WE'RE ENTERING THE ASTEROID BELT.. KEEP YOUR SHIP AS CLOSE TO US AS POSSIBLE!
DON'T WORRY, STAR PIRATE, YOU CAN'T LOSE ME.. WITH ALL THAT GOLD AT THE END OF THE TRAIL!
BUT, TWO ASTEROIDS WHIZZ TOWARD THE GIRL'S SHIP WITH DEADLY SPEED...
AND AS THE CRAFT IS CRUSHED WITH SHATTERING PRECISION, A VOICE COMES THROUGH THE TRANSMITTER...
LOOKS LIKE YOU WIN THIS HAND, MR. BIG SHOT!
CRASH!
YOU KNOW A FUNNY THING, TRODY... I DIDN'T REALLY WANT THAT TO HAPPEN TO HER... BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO WIPE OUT THAT GANG!
YES.. WITHOUT A LEADER, THEY CAN'T DO MUCH!
STAR PIRATE WILL RETURN AGAIN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF...
PLANET COMICS!

Will Earth's Lost Race Return?

by THEOBALD PARKER



Deep in the jungles of Cambodia, French Indo-China, lies the ruins of a mysterious kingdom whose people vanished some time between the 12th and 16th centuries. The enigma of their strange disappearance has never been

solved, but certain evidence that has been uncovered provokes weird predictions.

For generations, the natives of Cambodia have whispered haunting tales about the great temple of Angkor-Vat. Foremost among their legends is the grim belief that the lost people will some day return. They reason that since the two million people of the Khmer civilization did not die, the sudden exodus from Angkor cannot be explained until the prediction is fulfilled.

Fear stirs in the dark eyes of these natives when they speak of this prophesy. They expect great and horrible things to occur if the vanished people come back. Scientists and explorers who have passed through this land do not laugh at the natives' fears because no one has ever proved how two million people could disappear so suddenly and without ever being seen or heard of again.

To understand the full portent of the threatened phenomenon, one must visit the source of the legend. Amid steaming jungles to the north of the Great Lake lies the Khmer kingdom. The largest of the ruins are the city of Angkor-Thom and the temple of Angkor-Vat. These monstrous structures of limestone stand on the right bank of the river Siem-Reap which flows from the Great Lake.

Archaeologists reckon that Angkor-Thom was built at about 900 A. D. during the reign of Jayavarman III. A high wall that runs two miles on each side, encloses the city from the surrounding jungle. Five tremendous gates provide entrance through the wall. From these gates once poured two million people, but the secret of their strange destination is not revealed when one passes into the city.

Towering inside the massive wall are palaces and temples. Once shimmering structures of polished stone, they are now overgrown with jungle trees and vines. Lightning and erosion have caused many walls to crumble. Storms and jungle beasts have ravaged the sculptured balconies.

The great temple of Angkor-Vat lies a mile south of the walled city. This magnificent structure is situated in a park encircled by a deep moat. A causeway crosses the moat and leads to a portico that runs for one-quarter of a mile to the temple gate.

Within the gate one stares in awe at the broad stairways that climb to meet at the sanctuary, a lofty pyramid that seems lost in the clouds.

Does this towering temple hold the key to the disappearance of the Khmer civilization? Its construction expresses the desire of a people to reach beyond the earth to the sky.

After studying Angkor-Vat, a French astronomer declared that the architecture followed the lines of ancient ruins left by sun worshipers. However, his theory conflicts with the fact that Angkor-Vat was built for the worship of Brahma, and shortly before the people vanished the temple was devoted to the worship of Buddha.

One of the native legends is that the lost people mounted Angkor-Vat's great stairways and disappeared into the sky. Hearing this tale, several scientists have pondered over the possibility that the Khmer civilization may have found a route to the sky but by another method.

There is no evidence to indicate that the Angkor was visited by voyagers from other planets. Nevertheless, this cannot be disproved. It is reasonable to assume that the Khmer people did not desert their kingdom without cause. Therefore they might have been willing to venture beyond the earth if a means of transit had been available.

Examination of the ruins reveals that the engineers of the era used only crude, hand-operated machinery. If these people journeyed into space, they were not flown aboard carriers that they themselves built.

Some scientists have argued that the removal of two million people by space craft would have been illogical. That depends upon one's conception of the type of ships employed. If we can imagine a fleet of collossal craft with the same carrying capacity in cubic feet of our largest ocean liners, then we can readily see that the feat may have been possible.

To those who scoff at the mere suggestion of this exodus, let us point out again that there is absolutely no evidence to prove that the two million people disappeared due to natural causes or events. A flood, earthquake or violent windstorm would have left indelible scars on the ruins and surrounding land. The migration of two million people thrpugh the jungles, and their infiltration among other Asiatic tribes after the 12th century could not long have remained a secret.

No matter what is put forth to account for the strange exodus from Angkor there is no evidence to substantiate the claim. Therefore we can find logical reasoning in the native legends that prophesy the return of the vanished people.

Now the question is how will they return to Earth? The best assumption is that they will come back by somewhat the same means that provided their departure. Seven centuries having elapsed since their disappearance suggests that their means of transit would now be more advanced.

Speculation is varied concerning the number of people who may return. The descend-

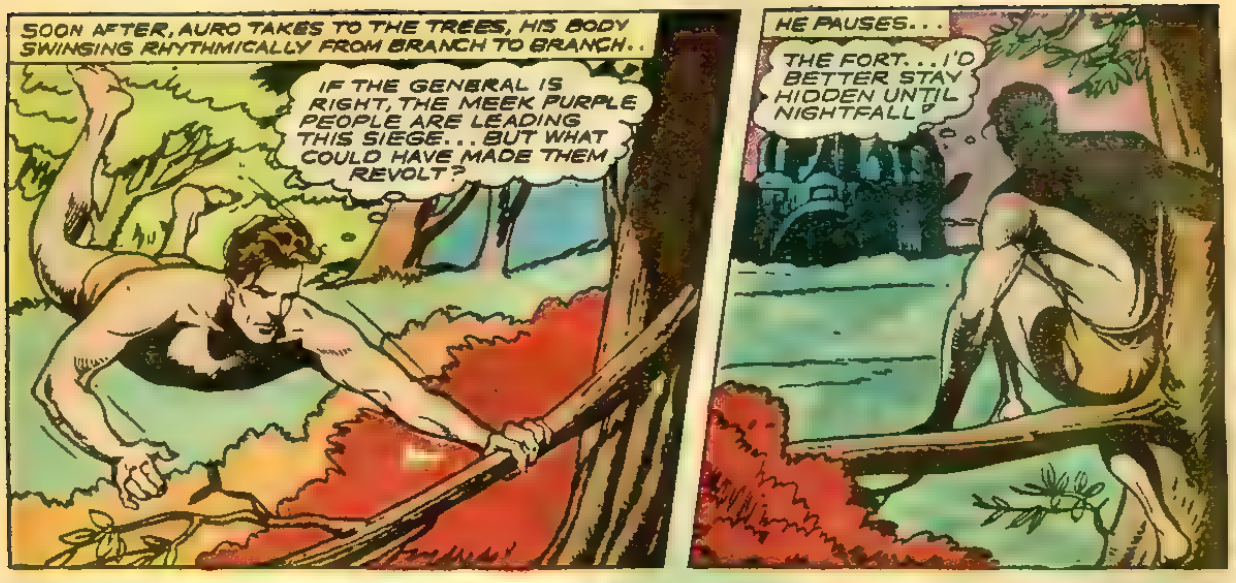
ants of two million may count above a hundred million depending upon the clime and condition of life on the distant sphere to which the lost people emigrated.

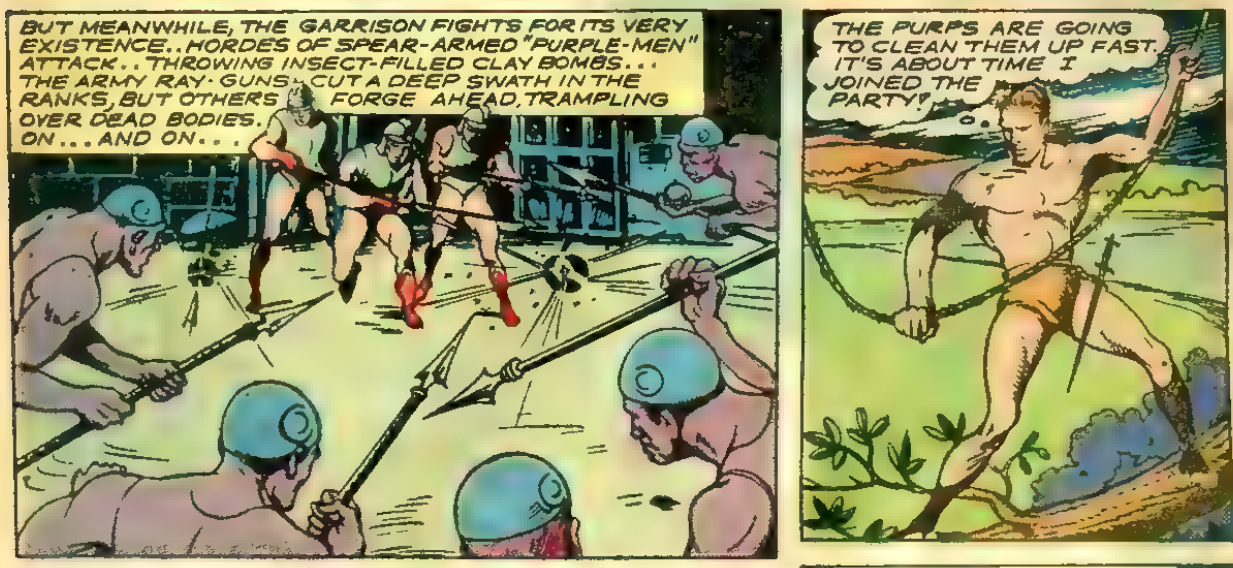
One hundred million strong, the descendants of the Khmer kingdom would present a powerful menace if they swarmed upon Earth today. Regardless of whether this great horde would arrive peacefully or warlike, they would soon bring tremendous pressure to bear on our civilization in its present war-torn and chaotic state.

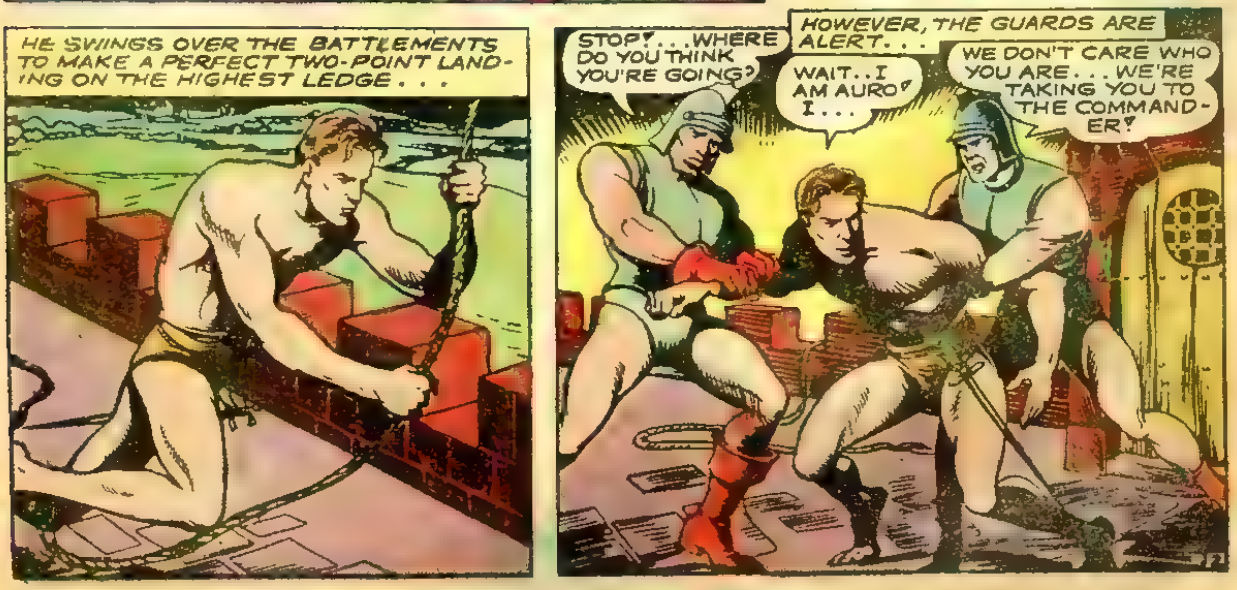
Two courses of action would be open to them. They could dictate order among our warring nations or they could annihilate the forces of both sides. In either case the peoples of Earth could offer little resistance. Our combined air forces have neither the speed nor the armament to deal with an armada of space ships. Our great cities, still vulnerable to air bombardment, could put up no defense against ultra-scientific weapons of destruction.

With the entire world brought to its knees, the Khmer horde would become the master people.

AURO
LORD OF JUPITER
By Dick Charles
FROM THE GRIM WASTES OF CENTRAL JUPITER COMES A STRANGE, HIDEOUS MENACE TO AURO'S PEACEFUL REALM!
ONE DAY, AS AURO SKINS THE LAST KILL...
AURO, AT LAST I'VE FOUND YOU.. YOU'RE WANTED AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY!
LATER...
MY BOY, WE NEED YOUR HELP! THE 26TH BATTALION HAS BEEN BESIEGED IN ITS JUNGLE FORT, AND I HAVE NO MEN TO SEND THERE WILL YOU GO?
YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME, GENERAL RAMI!


SOON AFTER, AURO TAKES TO THE TREES, HIS BODY SWINGING RHYTHMICALLY FROM BRANCH TO BRANCH..
IF THE GENERAL IS RIGHT, THE MEEK PURPLE PEOPLE ARE LEADING THIS SIEGE... BUT WHAT COULD HAVE MADE THEM REVOLT?
HE PAUSES...
THE FORT...I'D BETTER STAY HIDDEN UNTIL NIGHTFALL!


BUT MEANWHILE, THE GARRISON FIGHTS FOR ITS VERY EXISTENCE..HORDES OF SPEAR-ARMED "PURPLE-MEN" ATTACK..THROWING INSECT-FILLED CLAY BOMBS... THE ARMY RAY-GUNS CUT A DEEP SWATH IN THE RANKS, BUT OTHERS FORGE AHEAD, TRAMPLING OVER DEAD BODIES. ON...AND ON...
THE PURPS ARE GOING TO CLEAN THEM UP FAST. IT'S ABOUT TIME I JOINED THE PARTY!


HE SWINGS OVER THE BATTLEMENTS TO MAKE A PERFECT TWO-POINT LANDING ON THE HIGHEST LEDGE...
STOP!...WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
HOWEVER, THE GUARDS ARE ALERT...
WAIT..I AM AURO! I...
WE DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE...WE'RE TAKING YOU TO THE COMMANDER!

BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.. I WAS SENT HERE TO HELP!
HELP! THEY'D BETTER SEND MORE THAN ONE MAN.. WE CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER!
WELL... WHO ARE YOU, AND WHY HAVE YOU COME..? WE ARE NOT READY TO SURRENDER..
I AM AURO! .. GENERAL RAMI ORDERED ME HERE TO AID YOU, AND .
THE PASSWORD IS TRIDEN! DOES THAT CONVINCE YOU THAT I COME AS A FRIEND?
IT DOES.. AND I APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR WELCOME! LATELY, WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SUSPECT EVERYONE!
YOU AREN'T JOINING AN EASY FIGHT, MY SON. WE NOT ONLY BATTLE THE 'PURPS,' BUT ALSO BLOOD-SUCKING LEECHES AND INTENSE HEAT!
SUDDENLY...
THERE'S THE SIGNAL FOR ANOTHER ATTACK!
BONG!
IN A VALIANT EFFORT, THE PITIFULLY SMALL REMAINDER OF THE BATTALION MANS THE BATTERED WALLS, AS THE PURPLE MEN SWARM OVER IT LIKE A PLAGUE OF HUNGRY ANTS...
I MUST FIND THE SOURCE OF THESE CREATURES SUDDEN STRENGTH!
A FEW MINUTES LATER..
THAT PURP IS PROBABLY HEADING FOR THEIR MAIN CAMP. I'LL TRAIL HIM!

AURO FOLLOWS THE WEIRD CREATURE THROUGH THE HEAVY JUNGLE GROWTH, UNTIL. . .
THIS IS THEIR HEADQUARTERS! BUT WHAT STRANGE THINGS ARE THESE?
THEIR LEADER LOOKS FAMILIAR. . I'VE SEEN THAT EVIL FACE BEFORE!
AIA BOMBAIA BOMBE! LAMA SMANA QUANA! EVAN VANTA A VANA DOCK!
DRINK DEEP. . LET THESE WONDROUS RAYS INFUSE YOUR BODIES WITH STRENGTH. . . STRENGTH ENOUGH TO KILL ALL JUPITERIANS!
NOW I REMEMBER! SHE IS MEDNA, CONVICTED OF PRACTICING BLACK MEDICINE IN CENTRAL JUPITER!
BOW DOWN, O FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS. . . TO HEVIYOSO, GOD OF POWER, I RAISE THIS STONE IN TOKEN!
SO, SHE STILL FOLLOWS HER EVIL WAYS. . SOMEHOW, I MUST GET THAT STONE. . I. . . WHOA, I'M SLIPPING!
CRACK!
THE KEEN EARS OF THE PURPLE MEN HAVE CAUGHT THE DISCORDANT SOUND!
STOP HIM!
SURROUND!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR ME! I'D BETTER HOP THE EXPRESS. . .

BUT HARSH, SCREAMING WARRIORS SURROUND IN OVERWHELMING NUMBERS . . .
HE FIGHTS AS THE VERY DEVIL!
YOU SWAMP RATS, MAYBE YOU'VE GOT ME, BUT I'LL PAY YOU BACK!
SO, INTRUDER, YOU HAVE WITNESSED OUR CEREMONIAL . . FOR THAT, YOU MUST DIE! . . . XATAR, SHOW THE INFIDEL WHAT WILL HAPPEN . . JUMP INTO MAGIC POOL!
. . NO, HOLY MEDNA! DON'T DOOM ME TO DIE!
YOUR MIND IS AS MY MIND . . OBEY!
BY HEVIYOSO AND HIS POWER IN THIS WONDROUS STONE, I COMMAND YOU. JUMP!
AIEE!
AS XATAR DISAPPEARS INTO THE GRINDING EELSAND, A MESSENGER RUNS IN . . .
HO, O DIVINE MEDNA . . I BEAR BAD NEWS! THE MEN AT FORT ATTEMPT ESCAPE!
WHAT?
THE TIME HAS COME . . WE SHALL ATTACK AGAIN IN FULL FORCE! HURRY, MY PEOPLE! . . NILO, YOU WILL REMAIN TO GUARD THIS DOOMED ONE.
BONG!
ONLY ONE WATCH DOG ON THAT STONE! NOW'S THE TIME FOR ACTION!
STOP! COME CLOSER AND YOU SHALL FEEL THE STING OF COLD STEEL!
YOU ARE IN DANGER . . A VIK-LIZARD . . LOOK!

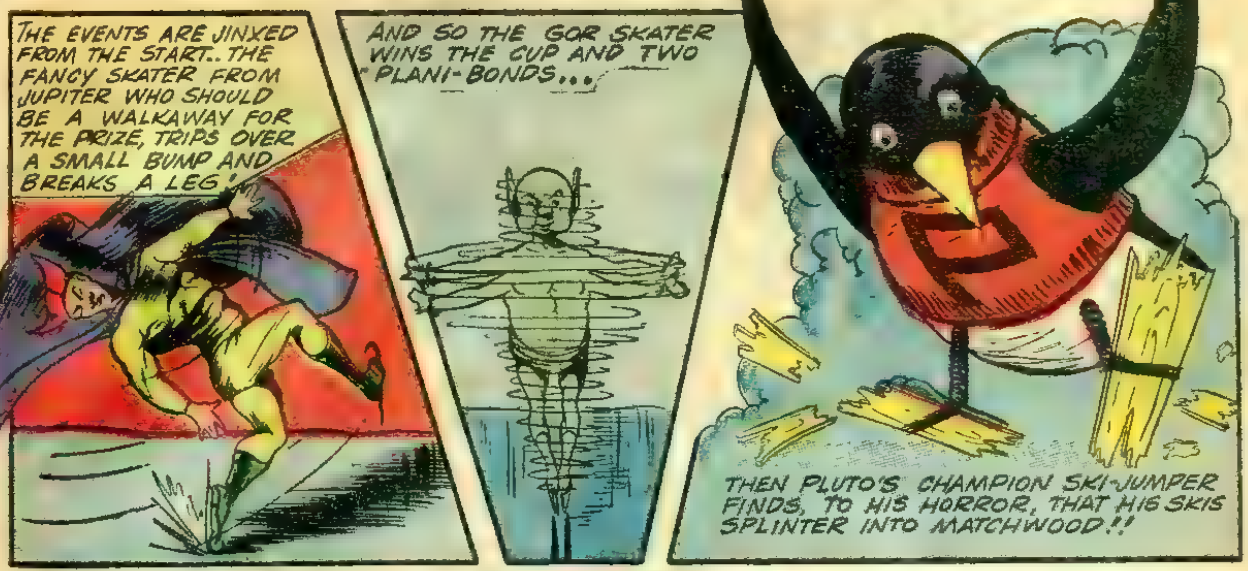
AND THE GUARD FALLS FOR THE RUSE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!
THAT'S THAT! ...NOW FOR THE STONE!
BUT...
OUCH...WHY, IT'S BURNING HOT!
THAT GONG HAMMER'S JUST THE THING FOR SMACKING THE STONE INTO THE WELL OF EELSAND!
JUST LIKE THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE GAME OF GOLF. WOW! A HOLE IN ONE! TOO LATE, BOYS, THERE GOES YOUR LUCK-PIECE!
AURO WARDS OFF THE ATTACKERS. POWERFUL MUSCLES RIPPLING, AS HE SWINGS THE HAMMER IN A DEADLY ARC...
YOUR HEAD DOESN'T HAVE AS CLEAR A TONE AS THE GONG!
LOOK, PURPLE MEN, YOUR POWER IS SLIPPING AWAY INCH BY INCH AS THIS STONE SINKS INTO THE "MAGIC POOL"!
YOU FOOL...YOU CANNOT STOP ME! I WILL BE REVENGED FOR MY THREE YEARS IN EXILE... YOU WILL PAY!
BUT...
HELP ME, MY FAITHFUL ONES! OBEY MY WILL.
NOT SO FAST, WILDCAT!
YOU'VE WON, YOU DEVIL! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
BACK AT THE JUNGLE FORT...
WE'LL PUT THE LADY WHERE SHE CAN'T ESCAPE. HOW ABOUT HER MEN?
BY TOMORROW, THE PURPS WILL BE BACK IN THEIR SWAMPS, ..AS MEEK AND PEACE LOVING AS USUAL!
AURO'S NEXT THRILL-PACKED ADVENTURE IN PLANET Comics
BUY A STAMP EVERY WEEK!

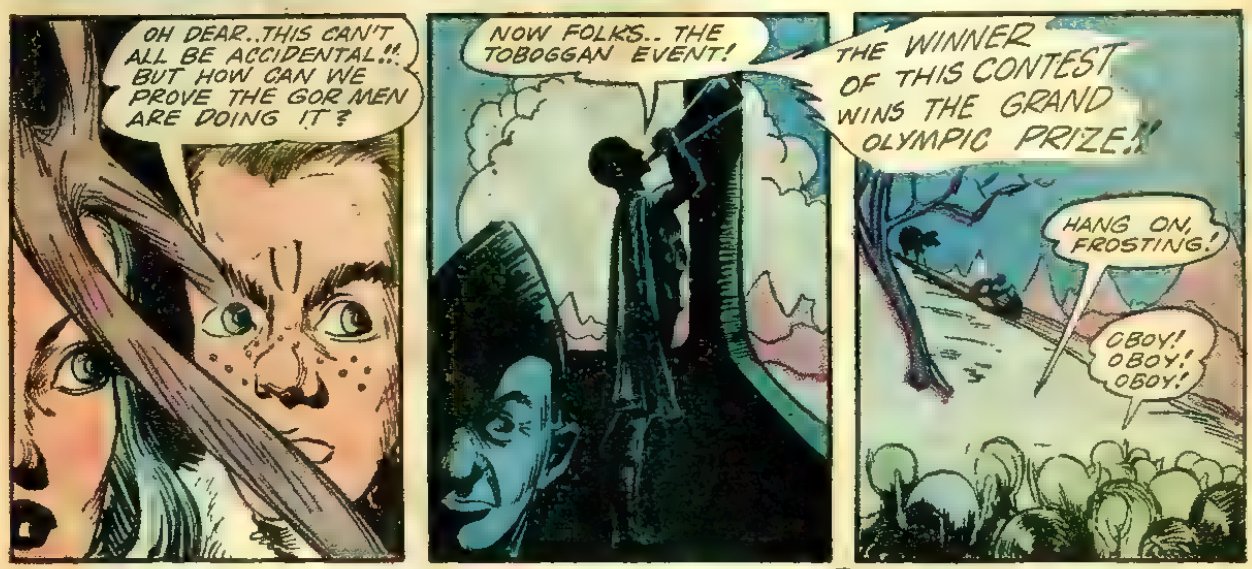
NORGE BENSON
By OLAF BJORN
TEMPORARILY OUT OF THIS WORLD, THE OLYMPICS HAVE GONE PLANETARY.. NORGE AND FROSTING TRY OUT FOR A PLACE IN THE TOBOGGAN EVENT—
"GULP"
WHIZ
THEY WIN!!..ALTHOUGH THE LOSERS COMPLAIN..
YAAH! FAKE! THEY GOOSE-GREASED THE RUNNERS!
WE DID NOT!!
JULIE HOPES TO ENTER THE ICE-SKATING CONTEST, WHILE HATRACK GOES FOR THE SLEIGH-HAULING EVENT..
Tony DeZuniga

MEANWHILE, THE GOR MEN FROM MARS PLAN TO SABOTAGE THE INTERPLANETARY GAMES...
BZZ... IF WE WIN ALL THE PRIZES, WE'LL FILL OUR PLANET'S TREASURY...
ZZZ.. BUT HOW?
VERY SIMPLE!! A TOW ROPE OR TWO— BURY A STUMP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SKI JUMP... MELT THE ICE ON THE SKATING LAKE SO OUR COMPETITORS WILL PROBABLY DROWN.. VERY SIMPLE!
MEANWHILE, THE PLUTONIAN CONTESTANTS PREPARE TO LEAVE FOR THE OLYMPIC PARK..!
OUCH!
OOPS! SO SORRY!
ARRIVING AT THE GROUNDS EVERYBODY GOES IN FOR PRELIMINARY PRACTICE...
LOOK AT THAT TERRIBLE SKI TECHNIQUE!
YOURS AIN'T SO HOT, EITHER!
PUSH, YA DUMB CLUCK!
MAYBE IF YOU GOT OFF AND HELPED..
FROSTING! HANG ON! YOU'RE S'POSED TO BE BALLAST!
..AND OVER BY THEMSELVES, THE GOR MEN FROM MARS WATCH EVERYONE...
HMM..LIQUIDATE THAT SKIER.. HE'S TOO GOOD! LET ALL THE BAD ONES LIVE, SO IT'LL MAKE EVERYTHING LEGAL-LIKE!
YES..YES. AND THAT SKATER TOO..
2

THEY SPOT NORGE, WHO IS SKIMMING LIKE A BIRD DOWN THE TOBOGGAN SLIDE, WITH FROSTING BEHIND HIM..
WE MUST REMOVE HIM! HE COULD WIN THE PRIZE RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!
YES.. FIND HIS IGLOO TONIGHT..
A CRYSTAL-CLEAR PLANET MOON LIGHTS TWO FIGURES ROAMING THROUGH THE IGLOO STREET...
SUDDENLY..
ER?
NORGE! NORGE!
NORGE HOPS UP SO FAST HIS HEAD CRACKS THE ICE CEILING....
OUCH! FROSTING! DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING? IT SOUNDED LIKE...LIKE..
ZZZZZ
HE DASHES OUT INTO A FULL-BLOWN FIGHT!
AND WHEN BOTH ASSAILANTS ARE OUT COLD..
JOLIE! I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU!! WHAT..?
I WAS COMING TO WARN YOU, NORGE! THE GOR MEN ARE PLOTTING TO SABOTAGE THE OLYMPICS, SO THEY'LL WIN ALL THE PRIZES!-- AND THAT INCLUDES MURDER, IF THEY CAN'T GET RID OF COMPETITION ANY OTHER WAY!! I JUST HAPPENED TO EAVESDROP OUTSIDE THE DOOR... OH NORGE.. WHAT'LL WE DO??

PREFERRING NOT TO PANIC THE CROWDS BY SPREADING AN ALARM YET, NORGE, JOLIE AND FROSTING DECIDE TO SEARCH THE GROUNDS FIRST..
WE NEED EVIDENCE BEFORE WE CAN ACCUSE THE GORS!
WAIT! DON'T MOVE! WHAT'S THAT BIG THING AHEAD OF US?? OH!.. IT'S HATRACK!
AAH!! LET ME GO!! QUIT POKING THOSE FORKS INTO ME! OOOH!
HATTIE CAUGHT A GOR WHO WAS SPLITTING THE RUNNERS OF HIS SLED!!
SEEING HIS FRIENDS ARRIVE HE CASUALLY TOSSES THE CULPRIT ASIDE.
OUCH!
HATRACK!.. HE DISAPPEARED! WHY DIDN'T YOU HANG ONTO HIM?
AND WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO CHASE HIM BECAUSE THE GAMES WILL START SOON!
PARTICIPANTS WILL PULL-EASE LINE UP IN THEIR RIGHT ORDER!


THE EVENTS ARE JINXED FROM THE START.. THE FANCY SKATER FROM JUPITER WHO SHOULD BE A WALKAWAY FOR THE PRIZE, TRIPS OVER A SMALL BUMP AND BREAKS A LEG!
AND SO THE GOR SKATER WINS THE CUP AND TWO PLANI-BONDS...
THEN PLUTO'S CHAMPION SKI-JUMPER FINDS, TO HIS HORROR, THAT HIS SKIS SPLINTER INTO MATCHWOOD!!


OH DEAR..THIS CAN'T ALL BE ACCIDENTAL!! BUT HOW CAN WE PROVE THE GOR MEN ARE DOING IT?
NOW FOLKS.. THE TOBOGGAN EVENT!
THE WINNER OF THIS CONTEST WINS THE GRAND OLYMPIC PRIZE!!
HANG ON, FROSTING!
OBOY! OBOY! OBOY!

ALL IS WELL FOR A LITTLE WHILE.. THEN SUDDENLY..
OUCH!
SOMETHING'S WRONG! WHY ARE WE GRATING DOWN THE SLIDE INSTEAD OF SKIMMING SMOOTH? F..FEELS J..JUST.. L..LIKE S..S..S..
S. SANDPAPER!!

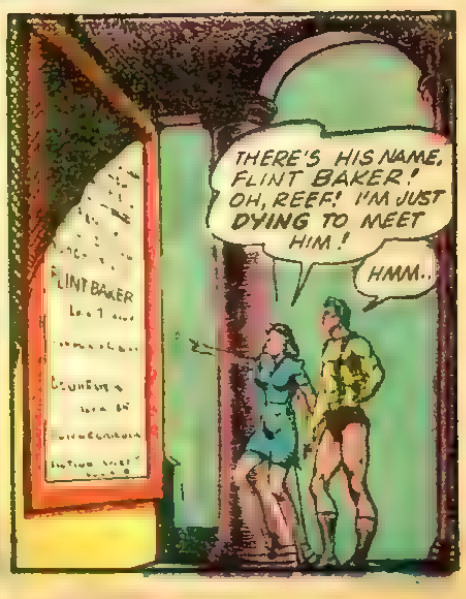
WELL I'LL BE!! SOMEBODY POURED ROCK SALT ON THIS RUN..TO SLOW ME UP!!
AN' LOOK!! THE GOR MEN ARE WINNING!
HEY! I'M GETTIN' PICKED UP!
THEIR TOBOGGAN COMES TO A JOLTY STOP..
FROSTING! GET BACK AND BE BALLAST! NOW WE'RE NOSE-HEAVY!
BOTH NORGE AND FROSTING ARE CATAPULTED THROUGH SPACE...
TO LAND WITH A THUMP ON THE FINISH LINE!
TECHNICALLY, GENTLEMEN YOU WIN!
HUH?
WITHOUT THE TOBOGGAN? JUST CAUSE WE GOT HERE FIRST? GEE- WE COULD'VE FLOWN AND SAVED ALL THIS TROUBLE..
NORGE REVEALS THE GOR MEN'S PLOTTING..THEY ARE DRIVEN FROM THE GAMES! NOW, EVERYBODY'S HAPPY..
BUY WAR BONDS!

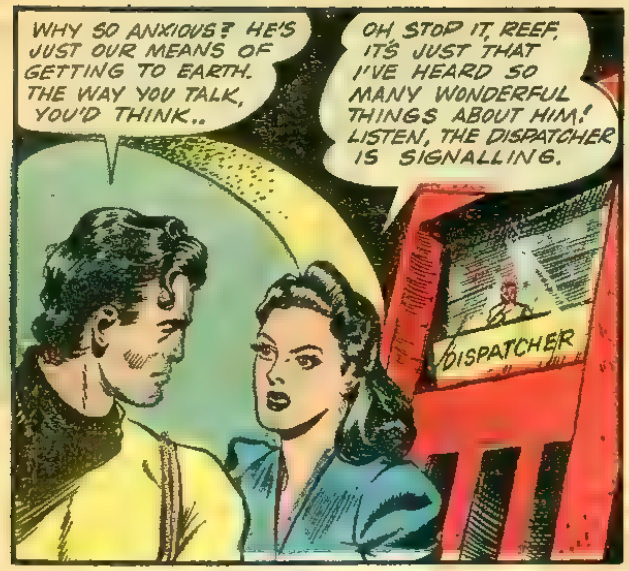
FLINT BAKER AND REEF RYAN SPACE RANGERS

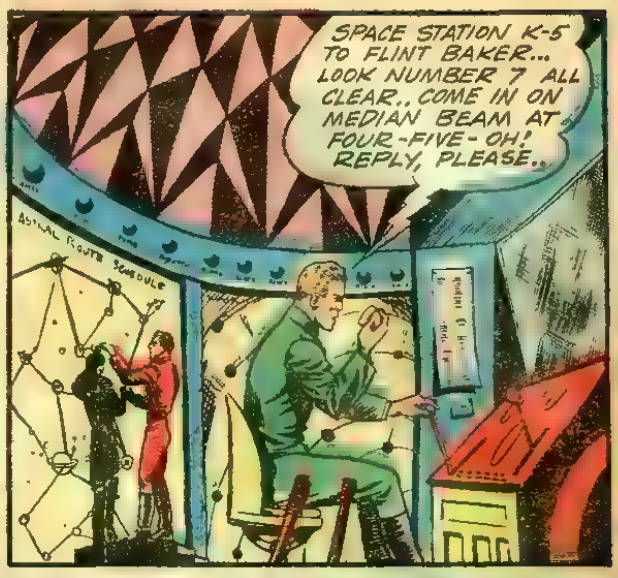
by Hugh Fitzhugh

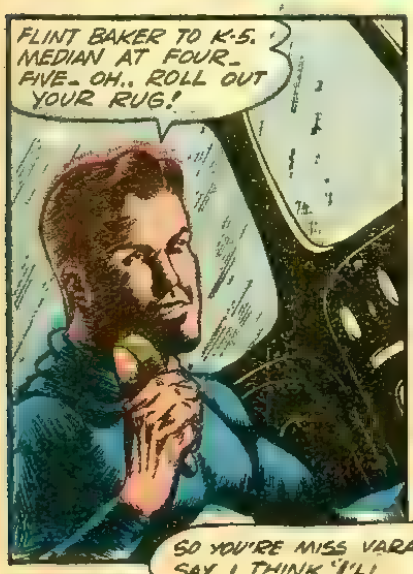
FLASH! EXTRA!
IN THIS CORNER..
FLINT BAKER
ACE OF THE SPACEWAYS..
AND IN THIS CORNER..
REEF RYAN
CHAMPION OF THE NETHER-WORLDS

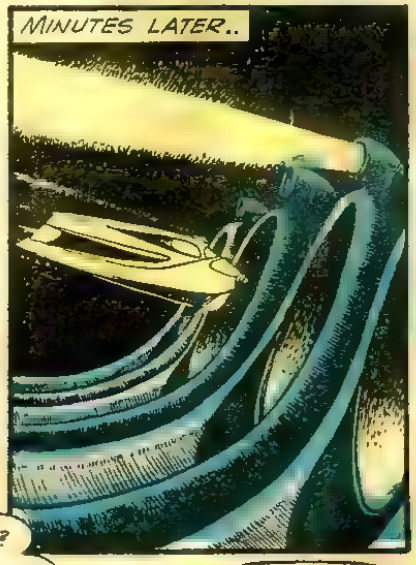
WOW!

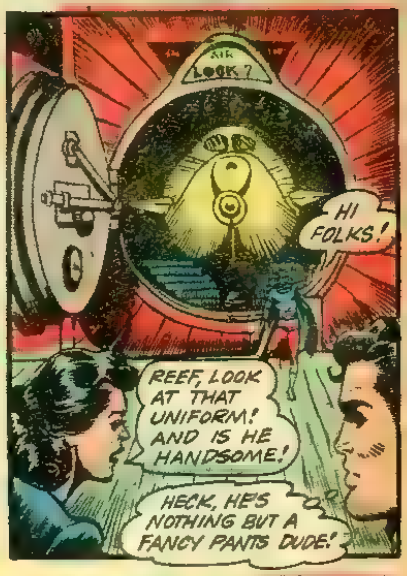



WHY SO ANXIOUS? HE'S JUST OUR MEANS OF GETTING TO EARTH. THE WAY YOU TALK, YOU'D THINK..
OH STOP IT, REEF, IT'S JUST THAT I'VE HEARD SO MANY WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT HIM! LISTEN, THE DISPATCHER IS SIGNALLING.
DISPATCHER

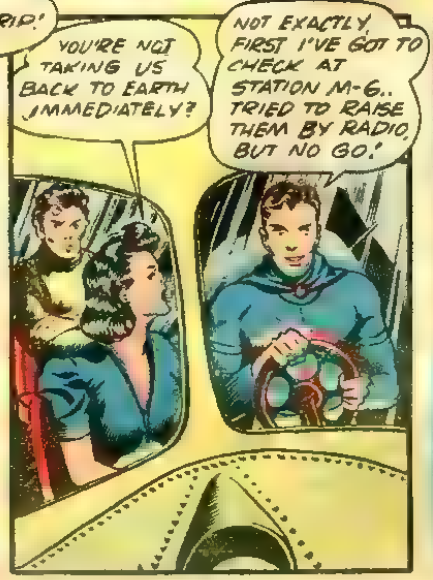

SPACE STATION K-5 TO FLINT BAKER.. LOOK NUMBER 7 ALL CLEAR.. COME IN ON MEDIAN BEAM AT FOUR-FIVE-OH! REPLY, PLEASE..


FLINT BAKER TO K-5. MEDIAN AT FOUR-FIVE-OH.. ROLL OUT YOUR RUG!


MINUTES LATER..

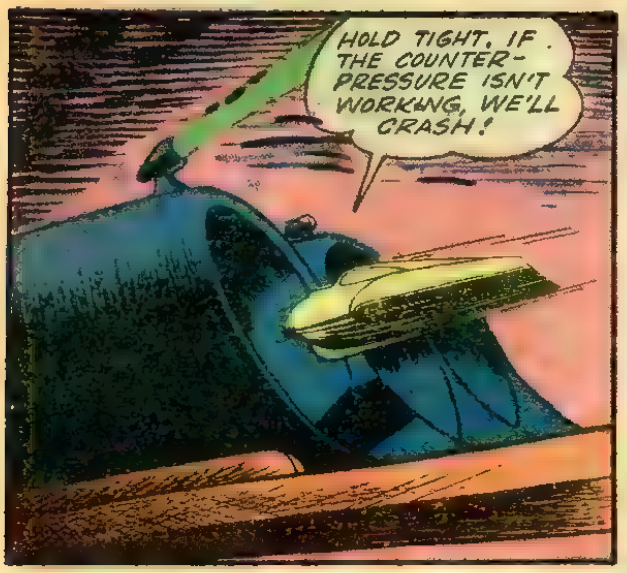

LOCK 7
HI FOLKS!
REEF, LOOK AT THAT UNIFORM! AND IS HE HANDSOME!
HECK, HE'S NOTHING BUT A FANCY PANTS DUDE!

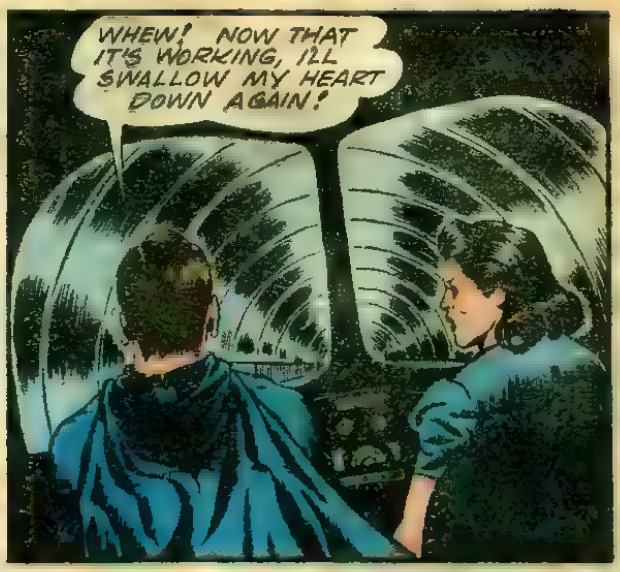
SO YOU'RE MISS VARA? SAY, I THINK I'LL REALLY ENJOY THIS TRIP! SHALL WE START?
HE'S SPREADING IT THICK AND VARA'S LAPPING IT UP!

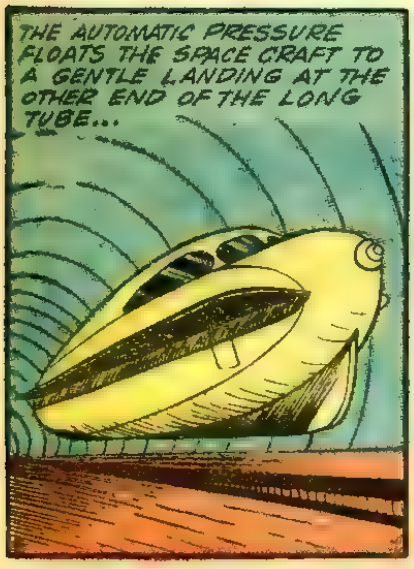

YOU'RE NOT TAKING US BACK TO EARTH IMMEDIATELY?
NOT EXACTLY, FIRST I'VE GOT TO CHECK AT STATION M-6.. TRIED TO RAISE THEM BY RADIO, BUT NO GO.

BUT MILES AHEAD..
HEY..WHAT'S THIS?.. !.. I'VE CHECKED MY INSTRUMENTS CAREFULLY, AND THERE'S NO CHANCE OF AN ERROR.. SPACE STATION M-6 HAS DISAPPEARED!

A GIANT THING LIKE THAT JUST COULDN'T DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY!
IT DID! BUT OF COURSE THIS WON'T STUMP FLINT BAKER, OR WILL IT?
NO! I'M HOPING MY MAGNETO-LOCATOR WILL PICK UP SOME RADIATIONS.
YOU MEAN THAT LITTLE CONTRAPTION MIGHT LOCATE IT?
YES.. QUIET, SOME SIGNALS ARE COMING IN!
I GOT IT! CALCULATIONS PLACE IT A GOOD TEN THOUSAND MILES OFF ITS COURSE. WE'LL GO THERE AND GIVE A LOOK-SEE!
SWELL! MIGHT HAVE SOME ADVENTURE!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! I CAN'T GO INTO ANOTHER STATION WITH DUDS LIKE THIS!
YOU'LL FIND SOME OLD CLOTHES IN THE BACK, REEF, AND WHILE YOU'RE THERE, GET SOME RAY GUNS.. WE MAY RUN INTO TROUBLE!
WHO DOES THAT BIG BUM THINK HE IS? HANDIN' ME CAST-OFFS!.. HEY, THEY'RE NOT BAD AT ALL!
NOT LONG AFTER..
FLINT, LOOK! THE STATION!
RIGHT! BUT IT'S DESERTED.. NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT! OH.. OH.. GREEN LIGHT ON ONE TUBE... DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN, BUT WE'RE GOING IN!
3


HOLD TIGHT. IF THE COUNTER-PRESSURE ISN'T WORKING, WE'LL CRASH!


WHEW! NOW THAT IT'S WORKING, I'LL SWALLOW MY HEART DOWN AGAIN!


THE AUTOMATIC PRESSURE FLOATS THE SPACE CRAFT TO A GENTLE LANDING AT THE OTHER END OF THE LONG TUBE...

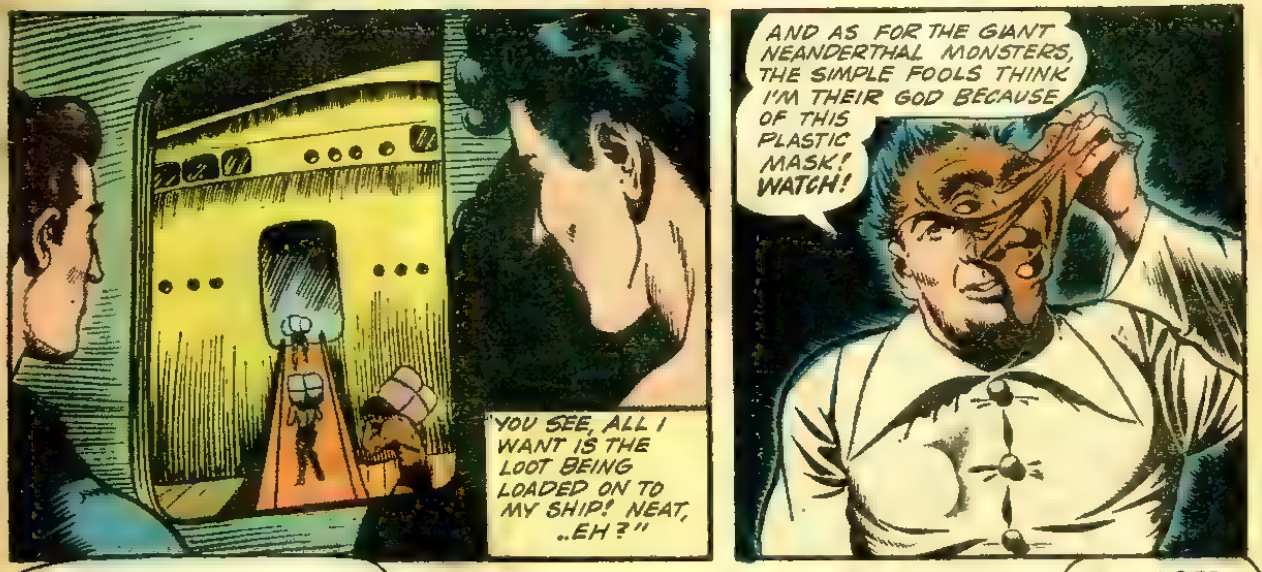
NOTHING IN SIGHT, FLINT. WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?

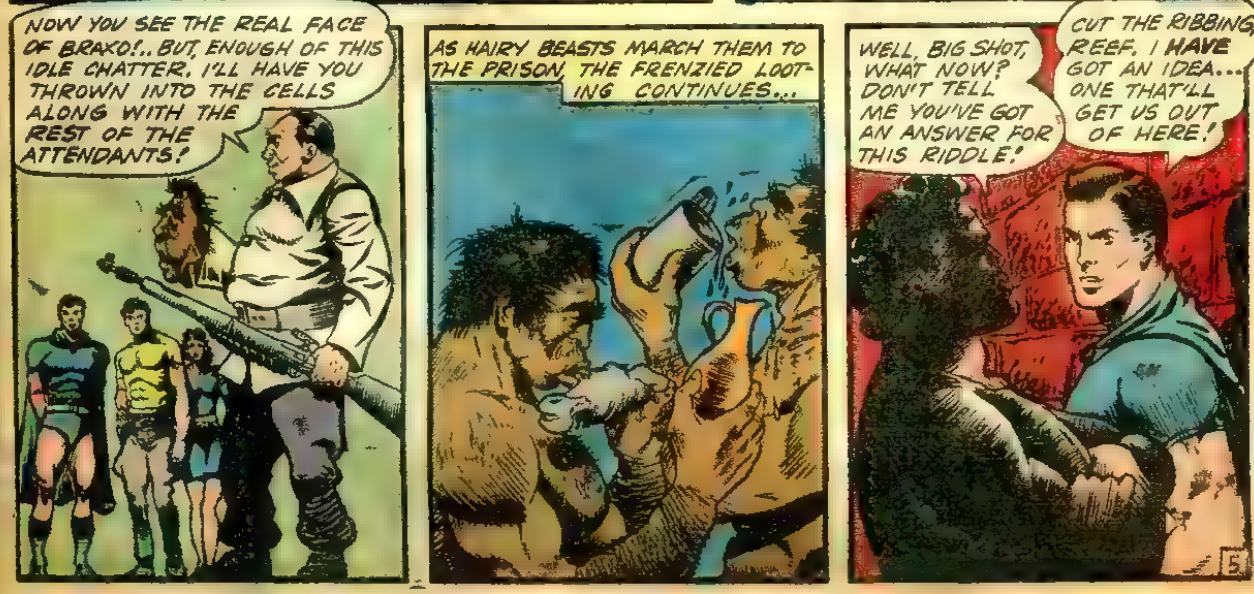
SEARCH EVERY INCH. THESE STATIONS ARE GIGANTIC AND THE ATTENDANTS MUST BE SOMEWHERE!
BRR! THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CHILLS!

SUDDENLY..
EEK! THAT TH. GIANT MONSTER BEHIND THE CHAIR!

BUT..
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF.. HEY!
HOLD IT, ME PROUD BEAUTIES! THIS CYCLOTONIC-RAY COULD BLAST YOU TO KINGDOM COME!

AH.. FLINT BAKER AND COMPANY! YOU SHOW GOOD JUDGMENT IN NOT RESISTING! TORGA, TAKE THEM TO THE OFFICE - THEY MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHY I'M HERE!
THE RADIO ROOM SMASHED.. NO WONDER THEY COULDN'T SIGNAL! BUT WHERE ARE THE ATTENDANTS?
RADIO 7
VERY SIMPLE. A GAS BOMB THROUGH THE ROOF. THEN I MOVE IN, CAPTURE THE STATION, AND CHANGE THE LOCATION!


YOU SEE, ALL I WANT IS THE LOOT BEING LOADED ON TO MY SHIP! NEAT, ..EH?"
AND AS FOR THE GIANT NEANDERTHAL MONSTERS, THE SIMPLE FOOLS THINK I'M THEIR GOD BECAUSE OF THIS PLASTIC MASK! WATCH!


NOW YOU SEE THE REAL FACE OF BRAXO!.. BUT, ENOUGH OF THIS IDLE CHATTER. I'LL HAVE YOU THROWN INTO THE CELLS ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE ATTENDANTS!
AS HAIRY BEASTS MARCH THEM TO THE PRISON, THE FRENZIED LOOTING CONTINUES...
WELL, BIG SHOT, WHAT NOW? DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE GOT AN ANSWER FOR THIS RIDDLE!
CUT THE RIBBING, REEF. I HAVE GOT AN IDEA... ONE THAT'LL GET US OUT OF HERE!
5

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' TO HAND ME?
WAIT AND SEE. THIS EXTRA BUTTON ON MY CAPE WILL TURN THE TRICK! HOW'S IT LOOK, VARA?
COAST CLEAR.. NO GUARDS IN SIGHT.
BUTTON? WHAT GOOD CAN THAT DO?
WATCH, REEF OLD BOY, JUST WATCH!
"ALL I DO IS SPRINKLE THE POWDER INSIDE ON THE LOCK!"
OPEN THE DOOR, REEF. WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE WHILE THE GETTIN'S GOOD!
OPEN THE DOOR, HE SAYS! YOU TRYIN' TO PLAY ME FOR A SAP?
HEY.. IT.. IT OPENS! HOW'D YOU..
ACID, REEF. COME ON, LET'S GET MOVING!
WAIT! WHAT ABOUT THE PRISONERS IN THOSE CELLS ACROSS THE HALL? IF YOU COULD GET THEM OUT...
CAN'T. ONLY HAD ONE BUTTON! OUR BEST BET'S TO TRY TO KNOCK OFF BRAXO!
MEANWHILE...
MASTER, MASTER! CELL WITH THREE PRISONERS EMPTY!
WHAT! YOU FOOLS! HAVE THEM FOUND, AND KILLED!

NOW WE'RE IN FOR IT.. THEY'VE DISCOVERED OUR ESCAPE! LISTEN, YOU CAN HEAR 'EM POUNDIN' DOWN THE SORRIDOR!
REEF, BEHIND YOU! WATCH OUT!
THANKS, VARA! HERE'S ONE THING THESE MONKEYS UNDERSTAND!
WHILE REEF STRUGGLES WITH ONE OF THE MONSTERS...
BRAXO RAISES HIS RAY GUN AND CENTERS HIS SIGHTS!
SUDDENLY..
NOT SO FAST.. FAT STUFF!
AHG!
BUT MORE AND MORE APE MEN CONVERGE ON THEM!
REEF! HELP! WHERE ARE YOU?
WE KILL!
HE'S DISAPPEARED!
UNTIL..
WE'RE DONE FOR, VARA! CAN'T HOLD OUT ANY LONGER!
BUT WHERE THE DEVIL'D HER BOY FRIEND GO?

THE NATIVES BOW DOWN BEFORE THE REINCARNATED BRAXO..
FREE PRISONERS, THEN RELEASE MEN IN CELLS! HEAR YOU MY ORDERS!
YES, WE HEAR!
WE OBEY!

MINUTES LATER..
I'M CAPTAIN GORDON. THE APE MEN ARE BEHIND BARS NOW, THANKS TO YOU! BUT HOW'D YOU MANAGE OUR RESCUE?
LET BRAX.. ER, REEF RYAN TELL YOU!

IT WASN'T SO HARD. I GRABBED THE MASK OFF BRAXO. THEN A PILLOW AND THIS ROBE COMPLETED THE COSTUME! HOW'M I DOIN', VARA?
WONDERFUL! OH, REEF, TO THINK THAT I EVER DOUBTED..

MUCH LATER..
SAY WILL YOU TWO LOVE BIRDS TALK TO ME ONCE IN A WHILE?.. WE'LL BE SAFELY BACK TO EARTH IN FIVE HOURS..
DID FLINT SAY "SAFELY"?.. A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN FIVE HOURS AND A LOT DOES HAPPEN TO THE SPACE RANGERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

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